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A-League Round 3 Friday 19th Oct - Sunday 21st Oct 2012



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Asian Group B Standings

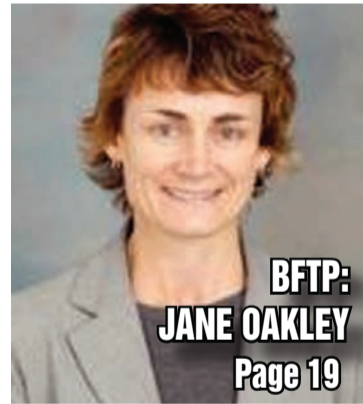
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. Japan	4	3	1	0	11	1	+10	10
2. Australia	4	1	2	1	4	4	+0	5
3. Oman	4	1	2	1	3	5	-2	5
4. Jordan	4	1	1	2	4	10	-6	4
5. Iraq	4	0	2	2	3	5	-2	2

Results:

Iraq 1-2 Australia, Oman 2-1 Jordan

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

This Week's Line Up



Australia grabbed a memorable victory over Iraq, while Oman, Iran and Uzbekistan also prevailed in World Cup qualifiers on Tuesday.

Goals from Tim Cahill and Archie Thompson in the dying stages saw Australia prevail 2-1 after substitute Alaa Abdul Zahra had given Iraq an unlikely lead.

The Socceroos controlled much of the tempo but were stunned when Abdul

Zahra fired a shot past Mark Schwarzer in the 72nd minute.

Australia looked in trouble at the neutral Grand Hamad Stadium in Qatar but were rescued when Cahill equalised in the 80th minute and Thompson sealed the result four minutes later.

The win sees Australia climb to second at the halfway mark in Group B with five points, five behind leaders Japan with four matches remaining.

In the group's other fixture, Oman claimed their first win of the campaign with a 2-1 defeat of Jordan in Muscat.

Oman move to third on five points with an inferior goal difference to Australia, while Jordan are fourth on four points and Iraq slip to the bottom on two points.

In Group A, 10-man Iran accounted for South Korea 1-0 in Tehran.

Masoud Shojaei was dismissed for

receiving a second yellow card in the 55th minute, though South Korea were unable to capitalise on the advantage in personnel as Javad Nekounam scored the decisive goal on 75 minutes.

Elsewhere, a 13th-minute Sanzhar Tursunov goal proved the difference as Uzbekistan defeated Qatar 1-0 in Doha. South Korea remain on top of the group with seven points, separated only by goal difference to Iran in second.



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Hennessy out, Younan in at Southern Stars

By Craig MacKenzie

VICTORIAN Premier League outfit Southern Stars has appointed former Marconi and Preston Lions player Zaya Younan as coach for the 2013 season.

The 37-year-old was an assistant to Richmond coach Michael Chatzitrifonos last season and has had coaching stints at Waverley Wanderers and Brandon Park. Younan's playing CV includes time spent at Altona Magic and a short spell at South Springvale last year. Younan was named in a Joëys squad in 1992 and played for Marconi in the old national soccer league.

Southern Stars avoided relegation in its first season in Premier League ranks with a 10th-placed finish this year but the club faced turmoil off the field.

Dean Hennessy was in his second coaching stint with the Turkish-backed outfit and had taken the club from State League Two South-East to the pinnacle of Victorian club football in successive seasons only to discover that

players' wages were to be slashed dramatically.

To his credit and that of his players they banded together and saw out the season but Hennessy walked away from the club last week which seems certain to open the floodgates as far as player departures are concerned.

"With the budget we were looking at for next season we would have struggled to be competitive in Second Division," said Hennessy. "I'm still passionate about football and coaching and I'm hoping to stay in the Premier League but if a progressive First Division club approached me and I liked their plans for the future then I'd seriously consider their offer."

Younan is under no illusions about the size of the task ahead but is relishing the challenge.

"It's going to be tough but nothing comes easy in life. I look upon this as a great opportunity," he said. Younan is a successful property developer who now finds himself having to develop a new squad good enough to defend Southern Stars' VPL status in 2013.

Hickey Wins Vic Tuting Medal

By Walter Pless

Shae Hickey, the 27-year-old South Hobart midfielder, has won the 2012 Vic Tuting Medal as the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League best-and-fairest player.

Hickey polled 25 votes, while Clarence United's Aaron Cairns was runner-up with 24 votes and South Hobart's Loic Feral third with 23 votes.

Adam McKeown of New Town Eagles was fourth with 22 votes, while Glenorchy Knights' Jade Clay was a distant fifth with 17 votes.

The medal count and award dinner was held at Hellenic Hall on Saturday night.

"To be honest, I'm very rarely caught speechless," Hickey said after being presented with his medal.

"I'm actually really excited about this and I really don't know what to say.

"I made a little speech on stage about how I've had a speech in my pocket for the last six years, but I don't know, I don't know what to say.

"I'm looking forward to taking on the Victory League.

"I've been very lucky to play with a lot of really good teams over the years and some very good players and I've achieved heaps of team success but I've never had much individual success.

"I never played with the State team when I was younger. I never won a best-and-fairest at any club. I've never done anything.

"This is the first time I've actually received any form of individual recognition.

"People get up there all the time and they say, 'Oh, this is really great but I'd trade it for a premier-



Shae Hickey, 2012 Vic Tuting Medal winner. Photo: WALTER PLESS

ship', but I've done both and this is better."

Bliss Cantrell of Olympia Warriors won the best-and-fairest award in the Southern Women's Premier League with 31 votes, 10 more than second-placed Tayla Thomas of Taroona.

Felicity Stringer of University was third with 19 votes and Loren Johnston of Clarence United fourth with 16 votes.

Tasmanian representative and Taroona midfielder Eli Luttmner took out the Southern League One best-and-fairest award with 29 votes, while Derwent United's Seong Goan Kim was runner-up with 21 votes and Huw Jarvis of Beachside

third with 20 votes.

Jamie De Smith of the FFT/NTC team won the Southern Premier League Reserves best-and-fairest award with a massive 46 votes.

Tilford Zebras' Ethan Engels was second with 26 votes, while there was a three-way tie for third between Clarence United's Takayuki Mizuno, Trent Pearce of Kingborough Lions United and Martin Farquhar of Lions, all of whom polled 17 votes.

The John Barker Medal for the Southern Under-19s best-and-fairest player went to Darcy Hall of South Hobart with 23 votes, one ahead of Max Clarke of South Hobart.

Josh Quigley of South Hobart and Benjamin Fisher of Kingborough Lions United came equal third with 16 votes.

Clarence United's Niamh O'Brien won the Southern Women's Premier Reserves best-and-fairest award with 19 votes, while Olivia Karas of Clarence United and Caitlin Hale of Olympia Warriors were equal second with 10 votes.

Ken Morton of South Hobart was the Southern Premier League coach-of-the-year, while John Fiotakis of Olympia Warriors was the Southern Women's Premier League coach-of-the-year.

Kim Barker was the best referee for the 13th successive year.

The best up-and-coming young referee was Jim Hortle.

The coaches' Southern Premier League XI, in 4-3-3 formation, was: Nathan Pitchford (New Town Eagles) - Jayden Hey (Glenorchy Knights), Hugh Ludford (South Hobart), Matt Lewis (Clarence United), Cameron Williams (South Hobart) - Liam Scott (New Town Eagles), Aaron Cairns (Clarence United), Shae Hickey (South Hobart) - Andy Brennan (South Hobart), Alex Leszczynski (New Town Eagles), Adam McKeown (New Town Eagles)

The Southern Women's Premier League Coaches' All Star XI:

Amelia Van Der Niet (Clarence), Loren Johnston (Clarence), Kelsie Minty (Zebras), Mady O'Brien (Olympia), Lauren Griffiths-Lee (New Town), Amelia Jones (Olympia), Tayla Thomas (Taroona), Kathryn McLeod (Clarence), Rami Cavaretta (Olympia), Bliss Cantrell (Olympia), Allie Berry (Clarence).

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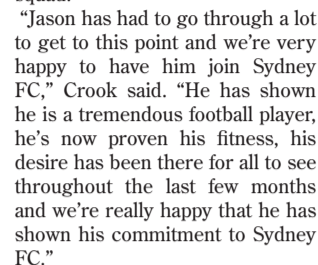
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Adelaide United



1

West Sydney



0

Match Details

Adelaide United 1 (Neumann 70')
Western Sydney Wanderers 0
 Referee: Brenton Hayward
 Crowd: 8,950 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United starting line-up:
 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk), 2.Osama Malik, 3.Nigel Boogaard, 6.Cassio, 11.Bruce Djite (8.Marcelo Carrusca 61'), 12.Antony Golec, 14.Cameron Watson (19.Jake Barker-Daish 77'), 16.Daniel Bowles, 17.Iain Ramsay, 21.Jeronimo Neumann, 22.Fabio Ferreira (23.Evan Kostopoulos 89')

Substitutes not used: 30.John HALL (gk)
 Yellow Cards: Malik 45', Neumann 62', Barker-Daish 82'
 Red Cards: Nil

Western Sydney Wanderers starting line-up: 1.Ante Covic (GK), 3.Adam D'apuzzo, 4.Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5.Michael Beauchamp, 6.Jerome Polenz, 8.Mateo Poljak (11.Tarek Elrich 79'), 9.Dino Kresinger, 10.Aaron Mooy, 17.Youssef Hersi (7.Labinot Haliti 62'), 19.Mark Bridge, 21.Shinji Ono

Substitutes not used: 18.Iacopo La Rocca, 20.Jerrad Tyson (GK)
 Yellow Cards: Hersi 41', Poljak 42', Ono 57', Beauchamp 65'
 Red Cards: Nil

Reds make it two from two to go top

By Nic Kerber

Jeronimo Neumann's second half goal has helped Adelaide United FC to consecutive wins to start the season as the Reds inflicted the first defeat on new Hyundai A-League club Western Sydney Wanderers in a 1-0 result at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Argentinean's clinical 70th minute finish decided a game that took until the second half to really come to life.

It could have been a different story after Neumann had a penalty saved by Ante Covic only five minutes earlier, but the Reds' number 21 would not be denied as he finished off a superb counter attack as the home side pounced from a Wanderers corner.

The Reds' three new foreigners – Neumann, Fabio Ferreira and Marcelo Carrusca, all showed they will be more than capable of causing problems for opposition defences this season, while at the other end of the park the Reds can boast back to back clean sheets, something they failed to do during the entirety of last season.

In United's first home game of season 8, the opening 45 minutes failed to reach any great heights, with passes not quite finding their mark and both sides making a number of mistakes.

Neumann was proving the Reds' most potent force, the Argentinean coming close in the 15th minute as he blazed a shot into the side netting.

Defender Nigel Boogaard's timely interception ensured Mark Bridge could not manufacture a shot on target to test Galekovic, the Wanderers' best chance of the half coming in the 32nd minute when Mateo Poljak's dipping strike forced Galekovic into a sharp reflex save.

From the opening minute of the second half the Reds' increased intensity was evident and they went close to breaking the deadlock when Ferreira showed a clean pair of heels to send a pinpoint cross to the far post which was met by a firm Ramsay header but it went straight at Covic.

Ferreira's pace out wide was a feature and in the 65th minute he won



Adelaide United's Cassio leaves West Sydney's Wanderers' Shinji Ono in his wake. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

United a penalty as he was brought down by Nikolai Topor-Stanley, the referee eventually pointing to the spot after consulting the linesman on whether the contact occurred inside the area.

But Neumann's penalty was easily saved by Covic to keep the Wanderers level as chances started to come with more frequency at both ends.

The deciding moment came after WSW failed to make the most of a corner. Ramsay darted away with space around him before cutting inside as Neumann made a diagonal run across him. The former found

the latter with a clever through ball and the noise of the crowd said the rest as Neumann coolly guided his left footed shot around Covic and inches inside the post.

Wanderers substitute Labinot Haliti had a couple of opportunities to equalise as he sent a venomous shot into the side netting before he had a header that went powerfully but into the arms of Galekovic.

Coach John Kosmina predicted in the lead up to the game that it was going to be a difficult assignment after rigours of the trip to Tashkent and Newcastle, and was proud with

the way his team came through and secured three points.

"It was good that we backed up from last week because I always felt this week was going to be tougher than getting them up for Newcastle, simply because of the fatigue factor, we only trained twice," Kosmina said.

"We were rusty early on, I think we still played well but we were rusty, we weren't fluent, but in the second half it started to come good."

Kosmina was also complimentary of Neumann for his persistence and determination to make amends from his missed penalty.

"He (Jeronimo) wanted it. He's hungry for goals so I don't mind...he missed and made up for it," Kosmina said.

"Knowing what he's like, he would have been pretty annoyed with himself missing that penalty and he was going to make up for it one way or another, and he did."

"Jeronimo is a natural striker and the way he finished his goal, I haven't seen anyone open up like that for quite awhile."

A blockbuster against Melbourne Victory at Etihad Stadium now awaits the Reds in Week 3.



Adelaide United's Eugene Galekovic takes command in his area. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Jeronimo Neumann is about to miss from the spot, but fortunately made amends moments later. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



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Melbourne Heart



1

Wellington Phoenix



1

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 1 (Matt Thompson 20') Wellington Phoenix 1 (Paul Ifill 48')
Venue: AAMI Park
Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones
Attendance: 10,907

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint Bolton, 2. Michael Marrone, 4. Simon Colosimo, 5. Fred, 6. Patrick Gerhardt, 8. Matt Thompson, 9. Dylan McAllister (22. Nick Kalmar 82'), 10. Josip Tadic (18 David Vrankovic 49'), 11. Richard Garcia, 16. Aziz Behich, 23. Mate Dugandzic.

Unused substitutes: 20. Andrew Redmayne, 17. Jason Hoffman
Yellow cards: Fred 43', Dylan McAllister 67'
Red cards: Simon Colosimo 47'.

Wellington Phoenix: 39 Jacob Spoonley, 2 Manny Muscat, 5 Michael Boxall, 6 Alex Smith, 8 Paul Ifill, 10. Stein Huysegems, 16 Louis Fenton, 17 Vince Lia, 22 Andrew Durante, 29 Luke Rowe, 31 Thomas Biss (12 Tyler Boyd 31').

Unused substitutes: 28. Ricardo Clarke, 30. Scott Basalaj, 32. James Downey.
Yellow cards: Michael Boxall 23', Alex Smith 70', Manny Muscat 84'.
Red cards: Nil.

Fans left waiting for the Hungry Heart

By Ian Syson

But for the want of a hungry striker who loves putting the ball in the net, Melbourne Heart would now sit atop the A-League table with a goal difference of around +8. They should have hammered both Victory in the opening round derby and Wellington Phoenix on Sunday.

As it stands they are presently third, one goal to the good after 2 points got away from them against a makeshift and courageous Wellington at AAMI Stadium.

Dominant for much of the game, Heart allowed Wellington back into a match they should have been leading 3 or 4-0 at half time. Fred, Garcia and Thompson all have reasons to blush when- they review the tape. Fred failed to convert two one-on-ones: first walking the ball into the keeper's arms and secondly chipping the keeper but also the crossbar. And after a very solid first-up game against Victory, Dylan Macallister will feel a little disappointed by his performance. In the first half his blushes were saved by a late offside call when he failed to bury an easy opportunity and in the second a weak left-footed shot was cleared off the line after the keeper was beaten. He has to put them away. He picked up a late yellow card before being replaced to add insult.

All Heart had to show at the break was the barest of leads via one of the sweetest of goals. Aziz Behich rocketed out of defence up the left flank, crossed to Fred stationed at the penalty spot, who with his back to goal laid it back to Thompson, who slotted it beautifully into the keeper's top left corner. Power, grace, beauty and simplicity in one sweeping move. Goals like it really should win games.

Heart's dominance of the half



Heart players mob Matt Thomspon after the deadlock is broken early in the match. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

did not prevent Phoenix from having its own scoring opportunities. They had several, but they never looked like finding the net. Aside from the odd anxious moment Heart's defence dealt well with what Wellington had to offer. Potential target for the boo boys, Patrick Gerhardt had another solid game (despite murmurs to the contrary) and co-ordinated well with Colosimo at the back. Behich at left back drew praise from John Aloisi who thought that if the Socceros were having trouble finding a left back then they could do

worse than look at Behich. It's a big call but it might be food for thought!

If Heart were worried by their first-half profligacy in front of goal, their worst fears were soon realised very early in the second half. Simon Colosimo was sent off for handling the goal-bound ball on the goal-line. Paul Ifill drilled the consequent penalty and the teams were on level terms with Heart looking at an uphill struggle to get something out of the game.

Wellington looked as if they would take control of the game and for

the next ten minutes it seemed a case of not if but when they would take the lead. Ifill imitated Fred's first half effort in chipping both keeper and bar when he looked set to score. A number of his teammates also failed to take advantage of the semblance of opportunity that came their way. Having failed to convert this pressure into goals Phoenix allowed Heart to get back into the game via a series of rapid counter-attacks in which the final killer ball was never delivered. Marrone deserves to be pilloried for a selfish shot blazed high and

wide when a tidy pass to a teammate in a better position looked the far better option.

A tremendous crowd just shy of 11,000 probably deserved to see a Heart Victory yet they, like coach Aloisi, will have been heartened by the performance across the park (striking aside). They would be especially pleased to have seen the team shade the opposition when a man down and to know that they have, in Fred, one of the League's most effective and exciting players who, for mine, was man of the match.



Phoenix keeper Jacob Spoonley is at full stretch but Matt Thompson's beautifully directs the ball to the postage stamp. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Referee Kris Griffiths-Jones shows Simon Colosimo the red card, which enabled Paul Ifill to level for the Phoenix from the penalty spot. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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CC Mariners

1

Perth Glory

0

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 1 (McBreen 70')
Perth Glory 0
Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium
Attendance: 9,192
Referee: Jarred Gillett

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (c), 9. Bernie Ibini, 10. Tomas Rogic (5. Zachary Anderson 90+3'), 16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Nick Montgomery, 19. Mitchell Duke (2. Daniel McBreen 63'), 21. Mile Sterjovski (8. Adriano Pellegrino 78')

Substitutes not used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Zwaanswijk 35', Bojic 60'
Red Cards: Nil

Perth Glory: 1. Danny Vukovic (Gk), 3. Seb van den Brink, 4. Billy Mehmet, 7. Jacob Burns (c), 8. Dean Heffernan (12. Ryo Nagai 76'), 10. Liam Miller, 13. Travis Dodd, 14. Steven McGarry (6. Nick Ward 79'), 19. Joshua Risdon, 21. Scott Jamieson, 23. Michael Thwaite

Substitutes not used: 5. Steve Pantaleidis, 39. Devon Spence (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Thwaite 12', Burns 23', Mehmet 81', Miller 90'
Red Cards: Nil

Wilko Who? A New Star is Born

By Adrian Deans

In my preview, I was suggesting it was time for the real Tom Rogic to stand up. Instead, it was Perth-born Trent Sainsbury who rose to the occasion and really had the Mariners fans talking after the game.

After the way Perth defeated the Roar last weekend, I was expecting a difficult game for the Mariners. Bereft of last year's heroes and playing a different shape and system to that which has served them so well for the last two seasons, I expected Perth to finally get the win at Bluetongue. But the Mariners held out and got the goal which, on the balance of play, they just deserved. Probably.

The Mariners are playing a different shape this year. The 4: 4: 2 (with narrow diamond) which featured in the last two years is now a 4: 2: 3: 1 with two screening midfielders. Defensively, the Mariners are very strong but they are not making the number of chances they've traditionally made with Rose and Bojic bombing down the flanks and whipping in crosses. They missed McGlinchey on the weekend, and while Duke and Sterjovski had their moments, Bernie Ibini remains a work in progress.

The first half was a dour affair. The Mariners' more defensive shape versus a Perth team determined to get everyone back behind the ball did not leave a lot of room for expansive attacking play. The prevailing pattern was long slow build-ups under little pressure until the final third – then the attempt to thread the needle easily cut out by the massed defence. I don't think Matt Ryan had to make a save all match.

Mind you, the way Sainsbury played, he didn't have to.

Nick Montgomery was central to most of what the Coast were up to but would have been bemused by an absence of flying flankers. He played several balls into spaces that might normally have been filled by Michael McGlinchey or Ollie Bozanic but with both missing and the different shape – chances went begging.

Match Stats		
1	Saves	2
3	Attempts on target	1
5	Attempts off target	5
51%	Possession	49%
2	Corners	3
1	Offsides	7
15	Fouls committed	15



Daniel McBreen proves the difference on the day for the Mariners. Photo:KAREN DOUGLAS

Once again Tom Rogic showed flashes of his fabulous skill but was closely marked by Jacob Burns and unable to make it count in the final third. He actually managed to cut right through towards the end of the half but, with the goal at his mercy and the Yellow Army imploring him to shoot, elected not to shoot, or pass, and was soon relieved of the ball by a grateful Glory defence.

The second half was a far more entertaining affair in which we even saw some shots at goal. Josh Rose started getting forward more often and finally started combining with Ibini with-

out either of them ever quite getting into the clear.

One of the best moments of the second half was an unbelievable tackle by Pedj Bojic on Billy Mehmet when Mehmet was about to pull the trigger from five metres out. That was special.

Referee Jarred Gillett did not endear himself to the home crowd – seeming to miss numerous fouls by the Glory but then, as the crowd protested, would somehow find a reason to penalise the Mariners. There were some mystifying decisions but he did do the home team a favour in the 55th minute when Mat Ryan had a brain explosion and retaliated against McGarry in a manner that nine times out of ten would have resulted in a

penalty. Ryan will be hoping Spurs weren't watching.

Another interesting piece of officiating came in the 65th minute when Montgomery tried to take a quick free kick while being held down by Liam Miller. The ball trickled to a Glory player who was allowed to play on and put Billy Mehmet away for a one-on-one. The flag went up with Mehmet almost certainly onside. Well done linesman – justice prevailed.

Mitchell Duke ran all day without service and was replaced in the 63rd minute by Daniel McBreen. The moment of truth arrived in the 70th minute when Sainsbury picked out the run of McBreen and floated a perfect ball over the top which McBreen expertly controlled to give himself space and

then shot early before Vukovic was set. Most strikers would have taken an extra touch to balance themselves, thus inviting either a tackle or a save. That was class finishing and fittingly, the only piece of incisive attacking play in the entire game. It was an appropriately decisive moment.

Bojic won the ball and should have put the game beyond doubt in the 77th minute but, like the sides of barns, goals are hard to hit under pressure.

In the end, the Mariners hung on and as far as young Trent Sainsbury is concerned – throw away the thesaurus and invent some new superlatives, because this bloke has a huge future.



Tickled pink: The Mariners celebrate the winner to bag three points.

Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Mile Sterjovski prepares to avoid a Jacob Burns lunge.

Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

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PICS OF ROUND 02

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Picture Page



Former England international Emile Heskey comes under some close attention from Ivan Necevski. Photo: GEOFF JONES



Brisbane Roar fans are full of voice after their team turned on a display worthy of their champions tag. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Match officials lead captains Eugene Galekovic (AUFC) and Michael Beauchamp (West Sydney) and prepare to hop to it between a guard of kangaroo honour. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



SFC's Alessandro Del Piero pulls the trigger in a moment of brilliance to score a fabulous free-kick. Photo: GEOFF JONES



Heart fans enjoy the spring Melbourne sunshine at AAMI Park. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Mayor of Gosford, Lawrie McKinna puts on his best pink suit for a great cause. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Matt Thompson is happy to give Heart the lead. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



The Adelaide United W-League squad takes centre stage at the AUFC v Wanderers match. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER



The Mariners trade their traditional yellow for pink in support of Pink Ribbon Day. Following the game, the signed playing strips were auctioned to raise further funds for Australia's Cancer Council. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (Gk)
2. Matthew Foschini
3. Adama Traore
4. Petar Franjic
5. Mark Milligan
6. Leigh Broxham
7. Gui Finkler
8. Jonathan Bru
9. Marcos Flores
10. Archie Thompson
11. Marco Rojas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
15. Sam Gallagher
16. Theo Markellis
17. Jimmy Jeggo
20. Lawrence Thomas (Gk)
23. Adrian Leijer (C)

Three To Be Omitted

Ins: Archie Thompson, Mark Milligan, Marco Rojas (All Return From National Team Duty)

Outs: Danny Allsopp, Spase Dilevski, Andrew Nabbout (All Injured)

UnavaiLable: Nil

Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United

Fri Oct 19 Etihad Stadium 7:30pm

By Daniel Quinn

Etihad Stadium on Friday night hosts one of the fiercest A-League rivalries, The Cross Border Rivalry as the struggling Melbourne Victory host an in form Adelaide United. But this season the rivalry has been shaken up even further with Victory signing former Reds playmaker Marcos Flores.

Melbourne under Ange Postecoglou haven't started the season as many hoped, sitting on the bottom of the A-League ladder with zero points from two games, after defeats to city rivals Melbourne Heart and a 5-0 thumping from Champions Brisbane Roar.

Victory have been deplorable all over the park, mainly in defence and in goals with Matthew Foschini, Skipper Adrian Leijer and young 'keeper Lawrence Thomas all failing to impress new boss Postecoglou. The deep screening midfielders Jonathan Bru, Jimmy Jeggo and Leigh Broxham haven't done their defensive job either, while the front four of Archie Thompson, Marco Rojas, Gui Finkler and Flores have looked lively but with no real end product.

Thompson, Rojas and Mark Milligan, who all missed the Roar demolishing because of international duties, should be back in the starting eleven on Friday night, with other potential changes, including Tando Velaphi possibly getting a chance in goals.

Youngster Andrew Nabbout, who was given his debut at Suncorp



Marcos Flores set to take centre stage in fierce rivalry

The Odds

Victory 2.30
Draw 3.30
AUFC 3.10

Stadium, though could miss with a groin strain, despite impressing. Meanwhile Adelaide United are the only side with a one-hundred percent record from two games, after a 2-0 win over Newcastle, and a 1-0 victory over Western Sydney Wanderers.

The Reds are also yet to concede, with two clean sheets and a rock solid defensive partnership of Nigel Boogaard and Antony Golec, the former though is doubt with an ankle injury.

United are the fittest of all A-League sides after competing in the Asian Champions League in the off season before hitting the A-League running, proving how pivotal match fitness is in the world game.

But John Kosmina and his medical staff still have a couple injury problems, but Dario Vidosic and Sergio van Dijk should return to the squad.

As evident in previous encounters this tense rivalry will have some sort of controversy, as both sides fight to the final whistle, whilst Victory's home fans cheer for every tackle and moment.

The Flores factor will be the main talking point of the contest. The Argentine enjoyed a successful 18 months in South Australia, before moving to China and returning to the A-League with Melbourne.

Flores character and class will be all tested against his ex-side, as his former supporters may turn their

back on their former star and jeer. Adelaide will be hard to break down with a strong defensive record, but the Reds have only defeated the Victory in Melbourne three times and eight in total. Although Victory haven't defeated the Reds in the last five, despite ten consecutive wins beforehand.

Adelaide's defensive record and superior fitness, with Argentine Jeronimo Neumann on form and the returning Vidosic would likely edge United over the line particularly with Victory struggling.

Kiss of Death
Victory 0-1 AUFC



Adelaide Utd Line Up

1. Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
2. Osama Malik
3. Nigel Boogaard
5. Iain Fyfe
6. Cassio
8. Marcelo Carrusca
10. Dario Vidosic
11. Bruce Djite
12. Antony Golec
14. Cameron Watson
16. Daniel Bowles
17. Iain Ramsay
19. Jake Barker-Daish
21. Jeronimo Neumann
22. Fabio Ferreira
30. John Hall (gk)

one to be omitted

Ins: Iain Fyfe (promoted), Dario Vidosic (returns from injury)

Outs: Evan Kostopoulos (omitted)

Unavailable: Zenon Caravella (hip flexor – 2 weeks), Jon McKain (leg – 3 weeks), Paul Izzo (gk) (international duty)



Jets Line Up

1. Ben Kennedy (Gk)
2. Scott Neville
3. Tiago Calvano
4. Josh Mitchell
5. Dominik Ritter
6. Ben Kantarovski
8. Ruben Zadkovich
9. Emile Heskey
10. Bernardo Ribeiro
11. Connor Chapman
12. Josh Brillante
14. Taylor Regan
15. Craig Goodwin
16. Jobe Wheelhouse (C)
17. James Virgili
18. Jacob Pepper
19. Michael Bridges
20. Mark Birighitti
21. Marko Jesic
22. Adam Taggart
23. Ryan Griffiths
30. Jack Duncan (Gk)

Seven To Be Omitted

Ins: Mark Birighitti (Returns From Suspension), Josh Brillante, Connor Chapman, Adam Taggart (All Promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: James Brown (Ankle).

Newcastle Jets v CC Mariners

Sat Oct 20 Hunter Stadium 5:30pm

By Shaun Dyas

Newcastle Jets and the Central Coast Mariners, the fixture both sets of fans salivate over, is ready to resume at Hunter Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The Jets will be high on confidence after heading to Allianz Stadium last weekend and getting the points against a Del Piero inspired Sydney FC.

The Mariners come into the contest having not conceded a goal this season and coach Graham Arnold will fancy his side's chances in a match that both sets of fans would love nothing more to win.

The touch paper for this derby was lit in the first ever match between the clubs in the pre-season of the first ever a-league season. Mariner Nik Mrdja broke the leg of now Wellington centre half Andrew Durante's leg and there has been hatred between the teams ever since.

Saturday's instalment promises to be just as feisty and a crowd of around 15,000 will be expected at the stadium.

They will be there to cheer on their marquee man Emile Heskey. The former Liverpool man got off the mark for his new club last week and will be relishing the opportunity to perform in front of the Novocastrian faithful.

I will let him in on a secret, if he scores against the ultimate enemy,



F3 Hostilities Set to Resume

The Odds

Jets 2.80
Draw 3.30
Mariners 2.70

he will have a place in the heart of the Jets fans forever.

The man who will be tasked with stopping the Englishman is the Mariners dependable Dutchman Patrick Zwaanswijk. Make no mistake; it is the towering defender who is the major reason as to why the Central Coast rarely concedes. He will have to control Heskey and is capable of taking the big man out of the game, but I wonder about the young defender Trent Sainsbury next to him. He has looked decent in the opening 2 games of the season but the Mariners face a different challenge here.

Around Heskey, the Jets are

blessed with one thing they have never really had since the inception of the competition, pace.

Craig Goodwin in particular has been outstanding so far this season and I wonder whether the Coasties have a defender who can contain him and his other speedy team mates.

Central Coast has also looked gun shy this season. It may have to do with the fact they are playing a more patient game this season and have not fully adjusted yet. They will have to look sharper up front this week because I feel they will have to score to get anything from the match.

The form of both outfits would suggest that Saturday afternoon is going to be a tense struggle. The away team are always dangerous in this fixture but I have the feeling that they could be in for a tough afternoon.

Newcastle will be flying with confidence after the victory the week before and appear to have too many weapons across the pitch. Indeed I have been wrong before but I feel a home win is the likely outcome.

Kiss of Death
Jets 2-0 Mariners



Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zac Anderson
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
7. John Hutchinson (c)
8. Adriano Pellegrino
9. Bernie Ibini
10. Tomas Rogic
11. Oliver Bozanic
12. Troy Hearfield
13. Brent Griffiths
14. Michael McGlinchey
15. Brad McDonald
16. Trent Sainsbury
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
21. Mile Sterjovski
23. Adam Kwasnik

six to be omitted

Ins: 11. Oliver Bozanic (returns from injury) 12. Troy Hearfield, 13. Brent Griffiths (both promoted), 14. Michael McGlinchey (returns from international duty), 15. Brad McDonald, 23. Adam Kwasnik (both promoted)

Unavailable: 17. Anthony Caceres (Elbow – 2 weeks), 22. James Oates (Ankle – 2 months)



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Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
10. Aaron Mooy
11. Tarek Elrich
12. Tahj Minniecon
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro
* six to be omitted

Ins: 15. Reece Caira (returning from Qantas Young Soccerroos), Jason Trifiro (ankle)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

W Sydney Wanderers v Sydney FC

By Andrew Bishara

It's the first Sydney Derby and what a match it promises to be! The location will be Western Sydney Wanderers' home base of Parramatta Stadium and the game has been officially sold out!

Saturday night's derby looms as another big step for the A-League. Fans and critics need only to look at the Melbourne derby to see how it has taken the competition to new heights. So the FFA will hope the addition of the Wanderers will do the same.

Expect a fiery clash between Sydney's original team and the new boys on the block. As Wanderers coach Tony Popovic said earlier this week, "It's a first-ever Sydney derby... obviously there are emotions attached and hopefully we will control our emotions best and come away with a win". And there could never be a better chance for the Wanderers to open their winning account.

Under Popovic, the Wanderers are a solid unit, conceding the solitary goal against Adelaide on the weekend. Taking away that loss, their opening two games, showed that they are a team that can trouble others. But the lack of killer instinct has proven their downfall. Is this the game to break their duck? Possibly, sooner or later, one of those chances is going to go in. Their build-up play has been



The Odds

WSW 3.85
Draw 3.30
SFC 2.10

Wanderers and Sky Blues relishing Derby Delights

good, most notably the combination of Aaron Mooy, Mateo Poljak and Japanese marquee signing Shinji Ono through the centre of the park.

Sydney though, has proven the polar opposite. Five goals have leaked through the defence, which can only be described as "a mess". Bad positioning and silly individual mistakes have made them concede soft goals. The attack though is where it's going right for Sydney. After a few tactical changes at half-time Sydney were rampart against Newcastle, and should have drawn 3-3 if they had taken advantage of their dominate possession and nu-

merous chances.

The key for Sydney (and headache for the Wanderers) is Del Piero. The Italian legend clearly has shown that he's in Australia to play football and not just for the money. Everything positive that Sydney produced came from the former Juventus man, as he pinpointed every pass, made space for players to run into and set up a hatful of chances. If Sydney is to end their losing streak, the players have to lift their game to match Del Piero's.

Yet, Sydney coach Ian Crook problems lie again with defence, with lynchpin Pascal Bosschaart and

Adam Griffith in the injury room for the derby. The rest of his squad is up and running for the game. While the Wanderers has full list for Popovic to choose from.

This will be hot-blooded affair, with both teams desperate to record their first victory for the season, while also digging the heels in their 'new' archrivals. The Sky Blues' shaky defence might cost them, but the Wanderers lack of goal scoring penetration might make this game a tight one.

**Kiss of Death
Wanderers 1-1 SFC**



Sydney FC Line Up

1.Ivan Necevski (gk)
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Fabio Alves
7. Brett Emerton
9. Paul Reid
10. Alessandro Del Piero
11. Dimi Petratos
12. Blake Powell
14. Mitch Mallia
15. Terry McFlynn (c)
17. Terry Antonis
18. Trent McClenahan
19. Kruno Lovrek
20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
21. Yairo Yau, 22. Ali Abbas.

Ins: Nil

Outs: 8. Adam Griffiths (hamstring, 3 weeks)

Unavailable: 4. Pascal Bosschaart (achilles tendon, 2 weeks), 5. Nathan Sherlock (groin, 4 weeks), 6. Jason Culina (leg, unknown), 16. Joel Chianese (quad, 3 weeks), 23. Rhyan Grant (not selected), 24. Hagi Gligor (not selected), 25. Daniel Petkovski (not selected)

Phoenix Line Up

1.Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
5. Michael Boxall
6. Alex Smith
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Benjamin Totori
10. Stein Huysegems
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
15. Cameron Lindsay
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
19. Jimmy Downey
20. Glen Moss (GK)
22. Andrew Durante (C)
28. Ricardo Clarke (four to be omitted).

Ins: Mark Paston, Glen Moss, Leo Bertos, Ben Sigmund, Tony Lochhead , Jeremy Brockie, Benjamin Totori (all returns from international duty).

Outs: Luke Rowe (returns to Phoenix FSE), Scott Basalaj (returns to Phoenix FSE), Tom Biss (returns to Phoenix FSE), Jacob Spoonley (returns to Auckland City after one week loan)..

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Mirjan Pavlovic (medical condition – indefinite), Dani Sanchez (knee injury – 5 weeks)

Wellington Phoenix v Brisbane Roar

By Joe Gallagher

In a round which features two derbies and a grudge match, you could be forgiven for ignoring the round's penultimate game altogether.

But Brisbane's trip across the Tasman to face Wellington may prove to be the most exciting of the lot. Wellington Phoenix maintained their unbeaten start to the season last Sunday with a gutsy draw away at Heart, and Brisbane Roar screamed back into form with a 5-0 thrashing of the Victory.

Both results, positive in their own respect, against Victorian opposition will have Sunday's participants full of confidence.

The Phoenix's point in Melbourne from a side featuring four debutants and half a dozen absentees was one to be proud of, but Sunday's fixture against the Champions poses a different challenge altogether. Wellington welcome back seven internationals who missed the 1-1 result at AAMI Park. Mark Paston, Ben Sigmund, Tony Lochhead, Leo Bertos and Jeremy Brockie will almost certainly return to the starting lineup, while coach Ricki Herbert will again welcome a selection headache in his front third.

Solomon Islander Benjamin Totori is back into the selection frame as well, and will challenge Brockie, Stein Huysegems, Paul Ifill and Louis Fenton for a spot at the pointy end of Herbert's lineup. Fenton especially has made a tremendous start to his A-League

Champions To Show Intent Against Challengers



The Odds

Phoenix 2.80
Draw 3.30
Roar 2.55

career, and Paul Ifill was typically threatening in Wellington's last outing – unlucky not to have scored the Phoenix's winner.

He will need goals, as memory of the 2-0 defeat in this fixture last year will be all too familiar; a game in which the Phoenix were usurped from second place on the ladder due to a lack of a killer instinct in front of goal.

On the opposite bench, Rado Vidusic will be brimming with confidence after a victory on Saturday night that proved the Roar are certainly no less threatening under new management this term. He will have the same squad to choose from – featuring in-form

again Besart Berisha, and midfield dynamo Erik Paartalu, who was at his best last weekend – to tackle one of only two sides not to post a losing record against the Roar last season. Brisbane will have been hurt by a first-up loss to Perth Glory, and have well and truly re-established their favourites' credentials after Saturday's outing. And, ominously, captain Matt Smith has said this week that Brisbane still have room to improve upon their record-breaking performance against Ange Postecoglou's side.

With both sides built upon a strong defensive foundation and pace going forward this match promises to be an attacking one.

Wellington may suffer from fatigue, with their internationals having played three competitive games in just over a week. The match may well be won or lost depending on how Herbert manages his side. It is always a daunting task, tackling the Champions, but this Sunday's game will indicate just how serious Wellington are of challenging the top sides this term.

It may also show the likelihood of an unprecedented third consecutive season of Brisbane Roar dominance in the A-League.

**Kiss of Death
Phoenix 3-2 Roar**



Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (GK)
2. Matt Smith (capt.)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
6. Erik Paartalu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Muroccca
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Yuji Takahashi
16. Do Dong-Hyun
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (GK)
22. Thomas Broich
24. Nick Fitzgerald.
two to be omitted

Ins: Henrique (returns from injury)

Outs: Ivan Franjic (abdominal strain – one week)

Unavailable: James Meyer (groin – one week)

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Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
3.Bas van den Brink
4.Billy Mehmet
5.Steve Pantelidis
6.Nick Ward
7.Jacob Burns (c)
8.Dean Heffernan
9.Shane Smeltz
10.Liam Miller
11.Adrian Zahra
12.Ryo Nagai
13.Travis Dodd
14.Steven McGarry
15.Brandon O'Neill
18.Jesse Makarounas
19.Josh Risdon
21.Scott Jamieson
22.Ndumba Makeche
23.Michael Thwaite
39.Devon Spence (gk)
*Five to be omitted

Ins: 9.Shane Smeltz (returns from international duty),
11.Adrian Zahra 15.Brandon O'Neill, 18.Jesse Makarounas, 22.Ndumba Makeche (all promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 16.Evan Berger (hamstring – 6 weeks)

Perth Glory v Melbourne Heart

Sun Oct 21 nib Stadium 5:00pm

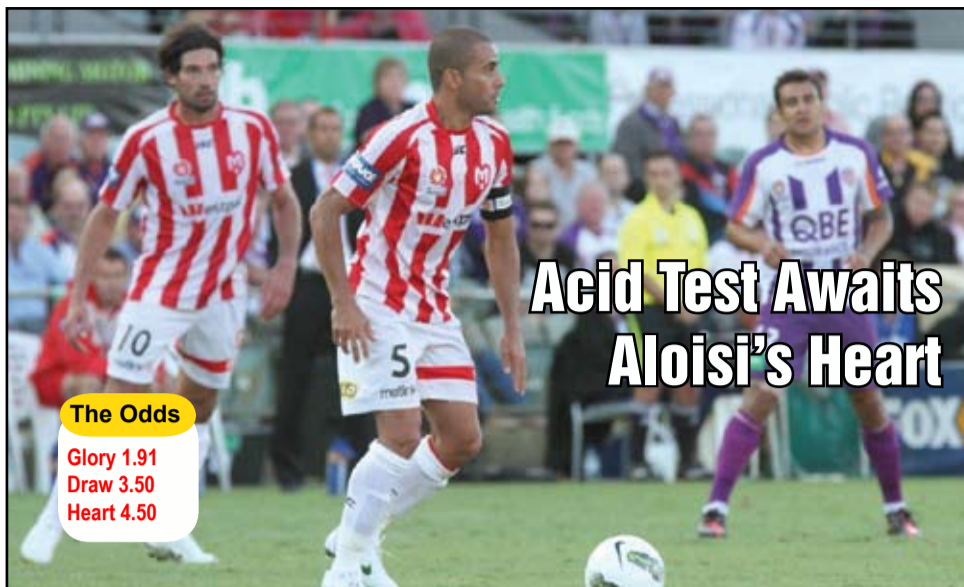
By Juanita Shepherd

Previous encounters indicate that Melbourne Heart are the underdogs for this context as past records prove that they are no match for Perth Glory. Heart faced defeat by Glory on numerous occasions in the last season, and even succumbed in their first final against Perth Glory, 3-0 at nib Stadium.

However, if Melbourne Heart can display the same ferocity exhibited to their rivals Melbourne Victory a fortnight ago, then who's to say they can't pull off one of the upsets of the round. Their win over Victory was against the odds, but failed to follow up the good work with a 1-1 draw against a depleted Wellington Phoenix that was there for the taking.

Is this the signs of things to come? Good one week, and frustrating the next?

A chance presents itself now for John Aloisi's men to prove us all wrong once again, and perhaps prove that the underdog tag is not so much warranted and that the team is one to contend with. Perth Glory started out the season with a header by Billy Mehmet securing them the win against Roar that they so badly wanted, but it seems as if that steely determination has slipped away from them with their loss against Mariners during Round



Acid Test Awaits Aloisi's Heart

The Odds

Glory 1.91
Draw 3.50
Heart 4.50

2 of the season. It's way too early to discuss finals yet, but consistency is the key and Glory will no doubt rely on a strong home record to deliver the goods.

While it may seem to the faithful that their game against Melbourne Heart will be as easy as chanting 'Walking in a Glory Wonderland' they may have to beware that they have another thing coming.

Aloisi is harnessing his team's potential. He understands and sees their worth and is making them play as a team. The Heart are by no means lacking in quality; goalie Clint Bolton kept seven clean sheets last season and also

won the club's player of the year award, he is more than a worthy opponent to Glory's Vukovic. It will be exciting to will be the busier of the two, which could prove vital as to who will win the game; will Bolton's experience give him the upper hand and will his maturity win over Danny Vukovic's quick reflexes?

Glory will be grateful to have Shane Smelt back from international duty, and granted they have an intimidating team, the mere mention of Todd, Smeltz, Miller and Mehmet send Glory fans into hysterics of glory worship, but Melbourne Hearts should not be underrated. Fred is

recovering well from injury and played a pivotal role last week, and once Soccerroo Vince Grella joins the arsenal then Aloisi will have ample quality at his disposal.

If the Melbourne Hearts play their first match against Glory as they played Victory, they have a sure chance of causing an upset. Either way it should be a treat. I can't see Glory giving away too much here, but brace yourselves for an entertaining afternoon of football.

**Kiss of Death
Glory 2-1Heart**



Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton (GK)
2. Michael Marrone
5. Fred (c)
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matthew Thompson
9. Dylan Macallister
10. Josip Tadic
11. Richard Garcia
15. David Williams
16. Aziz Behich
17. Jason Hoffman
18. David Vrankovic
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
21. Steven Gray
22. Nick Kalmar
23. Mate Dugandzic
one to be omitted

Ins: Nil

Outs: 4. Simon Colosimo (Suspended – one week),
14. Golgol Mebrahtu (fitness – one/two weeks), Jonatan Germano (Fitness – undisclosed), 19. Ben Garuccio (international duty – Qantas Young Soccerroos)

Unavailable: Nil

Sydney derby, shaky Victory and Brazil 2014

A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

A wealth of optimism and excitement is hovering over the A-League. Crowds and television rating continue to soar, while the football is continuing to raise many talking points amongst fans and the media. Off the domestic scene, the Soccerroos' World Cup Qualifying campaign apprehensively got back on track, with a timely 2-1 victory over Iraq on Wednesday morning.

As always, there are many issues to dissect and analyse, so let's get straight into them.

Sydney Derby ready for grand opening

The inaugural meeting between new cross-town rivals Western Sydney Wanderers and Sydney FC is set to take place at Parramatta Stadium on Saturday night. With a sell-out crowd, anticipated to around the 20-thousand mark, the occasion is

set to be a memorable one.

The success of the newly formed Melbourne derby has given Sydneysiders a glimpse of what they could experience in their own backyard – a pulsating, electric atmosphere between the two supporter groups. Football is tailor-made for these derby encounters, in many ways, it's no ordinary game.

The environment is like no other. For the first time since the inauguration of the A-League, the city's bragging rights will be up for grabs in Sydney – a mouth-watering prospect for any enthusiast.

To add to the spectacle, marquee signings Alessandro Del Piero and Shinji Ono will make their presence felt, with the Sky Blues and Wanderers respectively. The Italian's wonder-strike last week opened his scoring account in Australia, while Ono has looked lively since arriving on our shores.

While it's only round three, a copious amount of pressure is already on Sydney, following its two-straight defeats to commence the season. A third successive loss, at the hands of its new rival, will not go down with its fans. Expect to see a fiery encounter, there's plenty on the line – not just the systematic three points.

Brisbane Roar mortify Victory
It wasn't a pleasant homecoming for erstwhile Brisbane Roar coach Ange Postecoglou last



Victory will have to regroup fast after a disastrous trip up to the Sunshine State.

weekend. After guiding Brisbane to back-to-back championships, his return to Suncorp Stadium – an arena he had an abundance of success – was a nightmare. Victory was humbled by a whopping five-goal margin, the worst in its seven-year history.

The result was a shock to everyone; even the most one-eyed Brisbane supporters wouldn't have envisaged such a lopsided scoreline. Brisbane was ostensibly a step above in every department; at times making Victory's defensive backline looks rather calamitous.

Rookie goalkeeper Lawrence Thomas had a horrendous time between the posts. While the 20-year-old illustrated his shot-stopping prowess in the derby, he visibly failed to command his area with confidence, and notably struggled airily to claim the high ball on several occasions. To be successful at this level, a keeper must dominate in these areas. If Thomas is retained for Friday night's game against Adelaide, he must erase the memories of Brisbane, and demonstrate confidence in his own abilities.

The return of key trio from inter-

national duty – Archie Thompson, Mark Milligan and Marco Rojas – will be a welcome addition at Etihad Stadium. Following his dramatic late-winner against Iraq, Thompson will need to show leadership and direction, in what has been an underwhelming start to his team's campaign.

Evidently, Victory is in the process of adapting to Postecoglou's innovative game-structure. Time will tell whether this crop of players can adapt to this system. It could take weeks, months or even a season to reap the rewards. Patience is required from the club and notably, its fervent brigade of fans.

Nevertheless, the battles between Victory and the Reds have always been passionate and lively. With John Kosmina back on the Adelaide scene, it's set for another entertaining fixture.

Soccerroos en route for Brazil 2014

A spark of Tim Cahill magic, accompanied with a precise Archie Thompson header has rescued the Soccerroos in the final moments of its AFC World Cup qualifier against Iraq.

The 2-1 victory saw Holger Osieck's men move into second position in their group, level with Oman on five points after four games. Three of the final four matches are on home soil – having already played the front-runner Japan in Sydney, sharing the spoils at 1-1. Australia is now expected to qualify for its third consecutive World Cup tournament.

Overall, when reviewing Australia's win, the Soccerroos dominated

general play, without having a real firm grip on the contest. While encompassing the better of the play, creating chances within the attacking final third seemed to be a major problem.

This Iraqi outfit is noticeably a shadow of its former self – when it won the 2007 Asian Cup. While the Soccerroos ultimately claimed victory, the performance in many ways, was much to be desired. Really, Australia should be sweeping aside opposition of this calibre, with little worry.

While it's been well documented throughout the media, the ageing bodies within the Australian camp are a cause for concern. It's great to see our nation qualify for the biggest football tournament on the planet; however Australian football has got to a point, where we are continually evolving and looking to catch up to the rest of the world. The expectation is now, to qualify for every World Cup Finals and be a competitive force in the process.

Brazil is still 18 months away; however it's difficult to fathom how this current squad could realistically make it past the group stage. Regrettably, the next generation of Soccerroos haven't stepped up to the mark yet, if they did then they would genuinely be challenging for most positions on the pitch.

At this stage, the primary objective is to qualify for the World Cup. What happens afterwards is the million-dollar question.

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NEWCASTLE UTD JETS

SEASON 2012/13



BACK ROW: 15. Craig Goodwin, 17. James Virgili, 12. Josh Brillante, 24. Mitchell Oxborrow, 18. Jacob Pepper, 21. Marko Jesic, 25. Mitch Cooper, 10. Bernardo Ribeiro.

MIDDLE ROW: 22. Adam Taggart, 2. Scott Neville, 6. Ben Kantarovski, 11. Connor Chapman, 30. Jack Duncan, 1. Ben Kennedy, 20. Mark Birighitti, 5. Dominik Ritter 14. Taylor Regan, 13. Sam Gallaway.

FRONT ROW: 4. Josh Mitchell, 19. Michael Bridges, 9. Emile Heskey, 16. Jobe Wheelhouse (c), Head Coach. Gary van Egmond, 8. Ruben Zadkovich, 23. Ryan Griffiths 3. Tiago Calvano 7. James Brown.

Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES



By Mark Boric

It was yet another action packed weekend in Australian football, as the crowds flocked to witness ADP, Brisbane let Ange know what they really thought of him and Dandenong Thunder claimed the VPL title.

It was the A-League Marquee Derby in Sydney as FC hosted Newcastle Jets. It was 1-1 in the personal battle between Del Piero and Heskey, but 3-2 to the Jets overall. Del Piero delivered with more quality touches and a sensational free-kick goal, but will the punters keep coming back given he is playing with guys who would consider being labelled a hack as a compliment?

An ugly week came to head for Ange Postecoglu as Melbourne Victory were smashed 5-0 by Brisbane Roar. The media built on the tensions that followed his move from the Roar, with some potentially disrespectful comments highlighted in the



And they'll be dancing in the streets of Dandenong tonight... Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

build-up. Hampered by the loss of players to international duty, the Victory team failed to deliver a backs to the wall performance and were made to look very ordinary indeed. And by ordinary, I mean words they don't let me use in this column.

You can bet Ange was using a few of those himself, he did not look a happy camper post-game. You can also place a sizeable wager that the biggest smile was not on the face of a Roar player

or supporter, but on that of Craig Foster. He's running the Wiltshire through the sharpener as I write. The Victory coach's woes would make a good diversion from the struggles of his mates Alistair Edwards and Paul Okon.

Congratulations to Nick Hegarty of Hume City on winning the Gold Medal for Best and Fairest in the 2012 VPL, as well as Luke Sherbon for winning the Bill Fleming Medal and Golden Boot. The imports dominated once

again, and you have to go back to Terry Antoniadis in 2007 to find the last local product to claim the Gold Medal.

It was a big week for Dandenong Thunder, as well as Sherbon's medals there were wins for Chris Taylor (Coach of the Year) and Stuart Webster (Goalkeeper of the Year) before they all went on to claim the Grand Final with a 2-1 win over Oakleigh Cannons. Hopefully the celebrations included some pole dancing from Webby.



FFV Gold Medal winners, Louisa Bisby (Box Hill) and Nick Hegarty (Hume City), with Hugh Delahunty (Sport & Recreation Minister) and Nick Monteleone (FFV President). Photo: ANITA MILAS

It has to be said the A-League/VPL Grand Final Double Header had to be viewed as a great success. A glorious sunny day saw Heart's game against Wellington draw their largest ever non-Melbourne Derby home gate, and the crowd of 10,000 was reduced to a solid 4,000-4,500 when the VPL showpiece began.

Andrew Nabbout had a big week, having been signed for the Victory Youth team and instantly gaining a start in the senior team.

The best news for the former Sunshine George Cross, Heidelberg United and Moreland Zebras player - in the A-League there is no relegation!

Finally, Vince Grella has come back to Melbourne. The former Socceroo has signed for the Heart after drifting into obscurity through injury. David Carney is still looking for club, not sure if Harry Kewell is bothering anymore.

BOOTS 'N ALL



Roger Sleeman

DEL PIERO MAGIC
No doubt about the dead ball expertise of the Italian master but shouldn't the Jets last Saturday placed a defender on the other post to support Ben Kennedy.

In the recent World Cup qualifier between Macedonia and Italy, Andrea Pirlo took a similar placed free kick and the keeper was supported by a defender on the opposite post. When Pirlo took the kick, the Macedonian custodian was able to spread himself to his right post and push the ball away from danger. It makes you wonder how much preparation is carried out in the A-League to deny the goal scoring threats of opposing players on set plays.

DELIVERANCE
In the Adelaide v Western

Wanderers clash last week, I lost count of the number of times Brenton Speed, the Fox Sports commentator, used the term delivery.

Speed obviously listens to a lot of average English commentators who use this hackneyed term. Long ball, short ball, square ball, cross, corner, ball to far or near post are the terms I grew up with so let's get back to the basics in describing what really is happening in a game because eventually we'll be confusing this action with cricket where a bowler's weaponry consists of a variety of deliveries.

HALL OF FAME
For people with a deep interest in the history of our game, the appointment of three more academics to the Panel of Football Historians is hard to accept.

Without questioning the honourable intentions of the new appointees, the question has to be asked whether these people have watched club football on a weekly basis over a long period. In reference to Richard Kreider, there is no doubting his knowledge of West Australian football, but how far does his knowledge extend relating to the southern and eastern



Ian Botham was England's best ever all-rounder. He could bat, bowl, shoot, and eat a few pies as well. Probably wouldn't look astray in the Blue Square League or the A-league either...

states, apart from his exposure to the NSL when Perth Glory was admitted in the 1996/97 season. This panel is rapidly becoming the domain of researchers so why can't the FFA consider some of the past players or coaches, who I am proud to say I have observed religiously since 1958, to serve on this panel. The bottom line is, there is no substitute for hands on and eye witness experience and all the researching of history books and records will never be as accurate. Nevertheless, I offer my as-

sistance to the committee for any information they need to honour our former heroes at both club and international level and will put up my credentials any day against theirs to prove my point.

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE
The Setanta Network certainly provides a tremendous coverage of world football but there is no question the Blue Square Premier League is something special because it creates a unique atmosphere as small clubs attempt to

gain entry into the Football League.

Last week I watched two enthralling encounters when Stockport hosted Wrexham and Gateshead faced Gateshead. It was end to end entertainment with a lot of high class football but this isn't surprising because this competition is a nursery for the bigger clubs in higher leagues. This is England's 5th tier but many of the players would not be out of place in the A-League so what does that tell us about our national competition? Perhaps, this is the reason the British expats have never embraced our game in large numbers because they have always been used to watching competitions where the gap is huge between those competitions and the Australian game.

LEADERSHIP IN FOOTBALL
Bonnie Mersiades comments last week relating to the underutilisation of women as leaders in sport are particularly relevant to football in Australia. Co-incidentally, I had the pleasure of sitting at the same table with a number of former Matildas, including Julie Murray and Sonny Hughes, at the Johnny Warren Football Foundation Annual Dinner back in June. These girls have so much to

offer but are completely ignored by the power brokers in our game. However, what else is knew when most former male and female players in the game are never involved once there playing career has finished. We prefer to employ people who have no background in our sport like Matt Carroll, the former Operations Manager of the FFA, who is now heading the Australian Rugby Union.

MEDIA MATCH
The media match before the Sydney FC v Jets contest was serving a great cause in UNICEF but wouldn't this have been a great opportunity to bring forward the Sydney v Jets youth match to showcase our young talent in front of a large crowd. Once again this season, most of the youth league matches will not played as curtain raisers to the A-League. How can our young players improve if they can't play in front of bigger audiences to lift their performance? Only, the powers that be at the FFA could explain this ludicrous situation because they're obviously still not aware that it worked out so well in the NSL. Oh, but I forgot again, football only started in Australia in 2005.

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Youth the future as NYL prepares to commence

By Daniel Quinn

The 2012-13 National Youth League (NYL) season gets under way this weekend with the Western Sydney Wanderers replacing two-time NYL Champions Gold Coast United.

The Central Coast Mariners go into the new season as Champions after finishing on 36 points, four clear of Brisbane Roar and Perth Glory, both on 32.

But the Mariners have only kept four players from last season, David Bradasevic, Nikola Stanojevic, Adam Jenner and Young Soccerroo Hayden Morton, while adding Tommy Cirjak from Brisbane Roar and Daniel Bragg from Gold Coast United, as John McLafferty replacing Coach Tony Walmsley.

Runners up Brisbane Roar though have retained the core of their squad with Kwame Yeboah arriving from Gold Coast United and five others, as Young Soccerroo Jason Geria skippers the side.

Meanwhile Perth Glory kept hold of WA Gold Medallist Jack Clisby in a relative young squad containing eight sixteen year-olds. Young Soccerroo Riley Woodcock is one of them after graduating from the AIS.

Melbourne Heart starts their second NYL season with Joe Palatsides replacing John Aloisi. Palatsides and co have held onto five from last season, including Zac and Jeremy Walker, Josh Groenewald, Phil Petreski and Stipo Andrijasevic. Heart have completed their squad with youngsters who have impressed in the local Victorian Premier League like, Andrew Mullett,



Paolo Retre (Victory) loses Kale Bradbery (Jets) during a NYL match last season. Photo:JOHN PUNSHON

Round One Fixtures

Canberra United Vs Brisbane Roar
Sat 20 Oct KO 2:00pm
McKellar Park, Canberra

Perth Glory Vs Melbourne Victory
Sun 21 Oct KO 10:30am
Intiga Stadium

Adelaide United Vs WS Wanderers
Sat 20 Oct KO 2:00pm
Burton Park

Sydney FC Vs Newcastle Jets
Sun 21 Oct KO 3:00pm
Leichhardt Oval, Sydney

Ersin Kaya and Will Abbott, whilst adding former Victory youngster Paulo Retre and Young Soccerroo Stefan Mauk. Like Central Coast, Sydney FC have only retained four, Daniel Petkovski, Ryan Norval, Hagi Gligor and Christopher Naumoff. Tom Slater joins with Anthony Bouzanis. Last season's Coach

Ian Crook was promoted to Head Coach, so Crook's Assistant Brian Dene takes over the NYL side. Adelaide United have held onto the majority of their squad from last season, including Dion Kirk, Awer Mabil, Jake Monaco and 'keeper John Hall, with former Reds defender Michael Valkanis in power once again.

The Newcastle Jets arguably have assembled one of the strong squads with former Young Soccerroos Mitchell Oxborough and Luke Remington, with Jack Duncan, Kale Bradbury and Andrew Hoole joined by Mitchell Cooper and Bobby Russell from Gold Coast. With the Jets competing in the NBN State League gaining much needed experience, Newcastle might just have an edge over their opponents.

The AIS go into the new season with former Soccerroo Tony Vidmar leading from the side lines, as the squad composes of fifteen and sixteen year-olds making up the youngest squad in the NYL. Joshua Barresi, Victorian 'keeper Lucas Spinella and Benjamin Warland are just three potential stars of the future.

Last season's bottom side Melbourne Victory added Andrew Nabbout, who recently debuted for the seniors and Phillip Petrovski from Moreland Zebras, Connor Pain, Dylan Murnane and Western Australian 'keeper Luke Radonich, as under Darren Davies Victory look to stay clear of the bottom.

Western Sydney goes into their debut season with former South Coast Wolves Coach Trevor Morgan in charge, as the Wanderers play out of Campbelltown Stadium and Cook Park, St Marys. AIS graduates Yianni Perkatis, Jack Green and Jakob Williams are joined with Zac Elrich, brother of Tarek. Champions Central Coast with local rivals Newcastle Jets are this season's title contenders, but with plenty of changes in most sides, predicting a title winner is a tough task. But remember youth is the future.

NYL Squad Lists

Adelaide United

Thomas Briscoe, Stefan Cali, Issac Carmody (Gk), Jordan Elsey, John Hall (Gk), Shaun Harvey, John Karatzas, Dion Kirk, Awer Mabil, Nikola Mileusnic, Jake Monaco, Scott Nagel, Daniel Pritchard, Anthony Trimboli, Liam Wooding

Australian Institute Of Sport (AIS)

Liam Rose, Alexander Gersbach, Jack Iredale, Bright Appiah, Joshua Barresi, Jordan Brown, Scott Galloway, Brendan Gonano, Andre Jannese, Steve Kuzmanovski, Darcy Madden, Todd Norris, Matthew Ntounenopoulos, Dylan Pickert, Matthew Schmidt, Lucas Spinella, Jordan Thurtell, Jeremy Tshongo, Benjamin Warland

Brisbane Roar

Nicholas Tubbs (Gk), Fraser Chalmers (Gk), Jason Geria, Corey Brown, Lachlan Jackson, Cameron Crestani, Ross Archibald, George Lambadaridis, Ben Litfin, Nick Fitzgerald, Kwame Yeboah, Jordan Lambi, Brandon Borrello, Patrick Theodore

Central Coast Mariners

Louis Bozanic, David Bradasevic (Gk), Daniel Bragg, Tommy Cirjak, Jordan Crighton, Patrick DiXon, Josh Forbes, Adam Jenner, Hayden Morton, Mickey Neill, Kieren Paull, Aaron Peterson, Nikola Stanojevic, Luke Turnbull (Gk), Dillon Vorster, Steve Whyte

Melbourne Heart

Will Abbott, Stipo Andrijasevic, Evan Batsis, Alastair Bray (Gk), Nicholas Epifano, Josh Groenewald, Ersin Kaya, Chris Maynard (Gk), Stefan Mauk, Andrew Mullett, Sam Mitchinson, Phil Petreski, Paulo Retre, Jeremy Walker, Zac Walker

Melbourne Victory

Nick Ansell, Kwabena Boahene, John Buceto, Chrls Cristaldo, Luc Jeggo, Dylan Murnane Andrew Nabbout, Jake Nakic, Luke O'dea, Connor Pain, Phillip Petrovski, Luke Radonich

Newcastle Jets

Jack Duncan (Gk), Andrew Hoole, Mason Campbell, Luke Remington, Mitchell Oxborough, Koh Sataki, Michael Finnlayson, Stevan Illic, Kale Bradbury, Bobby Russell, Mitchell Cooper, Nick Cowburn, Michael Kantarovski, Blake Green, Radovan Pavicevic, Nick Hartnett

Perth Glory

Devon Spence (Gk), Ryan Lowry, Jack Clisby, Storm Roux, Riley Woodcock, Moses Kalau, Matthew Davies, Jacob Collard, Blamo Quaqua, Lawrence Shurama, Harry O'brien, Slobodan Vulin, Bordor Sam-Bindi, Jordan Franken (Gk)

Sydney FC

Ryan Norval (Gk), Keifer Dotti, Aaron Calver, Roberto Speranza, Daniel Petkovski, Hagi Gligor, Josh Macdonald, Peter Triantis, Nikola Taneski, Christopher Naumoff, Tom Slater, Lukas Stergiou, Luke Jenner, Luke Clifford, Alec Uroevski, Anthony Bouzanis (Gk)

Western Sydney Wanderers

Aaron Liddell, Stejban APric, Daniel Barac, Zac Elrich, Jake Mcging, Nicholas Olsen, Jakob Williams, Jack Green, James Badacchino, Jack Madgwick, Yianni Perkatis, Alistair Quinn, Thomas Manos, Brian Jamba, James Koulikakis, Mark Cindric

W-League Ready To Kick Off

By Ann Odong

The moment has almost arrived. The biggest W-League season yet is ready to launch with more everything. One new team, two rounds, 13 more matches, more internationals and surely plenty more goals, drama and excitement.

The introduction of the Western Sydney Wanderers has truly shaken up the competition with the off-season seeing more player movements than ever before. The result, is a more (there is that word again) even competition. Any team looks capable of beating one another on their given day and, for long time followers of the game, it is shaping up to be a difficult season to predict.

Last season was a big season for Adelaide United with the Lady Reds finally breaking a 34 game winless streak. In his second season at the helm, David Edmondson has collated a squad which is "more balanced and competitive" and which he believes are "fitter and more organised" than last season. Football Fern Abby Erceg retains the captain's armband and Edmondson as kept the core of his squad from last season including Emma Checker, Ruth Wallace, Marijana Rajcic and Racheal Quigley. The big question for Adelaide is; can they continue to improve and maintain the belief built from last season?

For the first time in five years, the Brisbane Roar commence a season with Jeff Hopkins a the helm. While the experienced Belinda Wilson takes up the reigns from the Hopkins, the Welshman will be a hard act to follow. Although Hopkins is gone, the foundation players remain. Tameka Butt, Clare



Canberra Utd won the W-League title lafter remaining undefeated all season in 2011/12. Photo: ANN ODONG

Polkinghorne, Lana Harch, Brooke Spence and Laura Alleway will once again be pivotal to Brisbane's success. Last season's squad has been further boosted by the capture of former Melbourne Victory midfielder Katrina Gorry and the returning Elise Kellond-Knight. However, can the long time W-League pacesetters climb to the top once again?

No longer the bridesmaid, Canberra United commence the Season Five of the W-League as the warmest of favourites. While other clubs

have undergone significant squad and coaching personnel changes, it has been business as usual for the defending champions. Coach Jitka Klimkova hasn't messed too much with a winning formula with captain Ellie Brush, Sally Shipard and Michelle Heyman all back to defend the title. Klimkova has added Young Matildas goalkeeper MacKenzie Arnold, by necessity, and German Ariane Hingst, as a luxury, to already formidable out. The challenge for Canberra is history as no team has ever won back

to back. But then there is a first time for everything.

If Canberra have been stable, the Melbourne Victory suffered a seismic shift in the off-season. Much loved coach Vicki Linton resigned prior to the season with former Gold Coast United A-League coach Mike Mulvey taking over just days before the season's start. Gorry and team leaders Jodie Taylor and Kendall Fletcher have also gone leaving Mulvey a tough task to mould a competitive Melbourne side. He certainly has the ingre-

dients with Matildas trio Stephanie Catley, Ashley Brown and Briana Davey as the base will the experienced Amy Jackson, Maika Rutyer-Hooley and American Danielle Johnson will be crucial. It's been an auspicious start for a team that had promised so much at the end of last season. He's been cool under pressure before, can Mike Mulvey pull it all together in a short period? Time will tell.

Back in charge of the Newcastle Jets, Wayne O'Sullivan is once again backing the talent in the Hunter region. Led by Matilda Emily van Egmond, O'Sullivan has picked a young, predominantly Newcastle squad with Stacey Day, Hayley Crawford, Gema Simon and Tara Andrews the experience several Newcastle products the support acts. Up front, O'Sullivan has turned to internationals to lead the Jets' strike force with Tori Huster, Angela Salem and Tiffany Bolshers all set to play key roles in the front third. O'Sullivan has had the bulk of the squad for a long period of time, will that knowledge be an advantage?

Perth Glory is another side that has undergone huge squad upheavals and all will say it is for the best. The WA team has captured several experienced players including Matildas Lisa De Vanna, Kate Gill, Aivi Luik and Collette McCallum as well as Chelsea and England international goalkeeper Carly Telford. Add to that Young Matilda Marianna Tabain, former Matilda Ella Mastrantonio and Perth has the combination to push for their first

ever finals berth.

For the biggest W-League season ever, Sydney FC have amassed their youngest squad ever. Although young, the Sky Blues are by no means inexperienced. Captain Kyah Simon leads a large contingent of Matildas, Young Matildas and U17 Matildas including Caitlin Foord, Alanna Kennedy, Teresa Polias and the recently acquired Sam Kerr. Youthful internationals have also been added with New Zealand trio Annalie Longo, Hannah Bromley and the championship winning Emma Kete (Canberra United) joining the "Baby Blues". Whether youth and mobility can win the day (and league) remains to be seen.

Returning to the W-League, Western Sydney Wanderers coach Stephen Roche has hit the ground running. The former Mariners gaffer has snapped up Matildas Sarah Walsh, Teigen Allen and Servet Uzunlar from cross town rivals Sydney FC, making for a spicy encounter in Round 2. The Wanderers are a mix of young up and coming talent with U17s captain Alicia Bass and Young Matilda Rachel Soutar in the squad, and proven W-League performers in Catherine Cannuli and Trudy Camilleri. With the squad assembled, Western Sydney will be more than competitive but can they crack that coveted Top 4?

All these questions and more will be answered in the next 12 weeks and 48 games of football. It promises to be a blast.

Couch Potato



* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SBS

SBS ONE
Sunday October 21st
10:30 am Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia.

11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazine - Highlights and news from the latest round of the UEFA Champions League.

Monday October 22nd
11:00 pm The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday October 22nd
9:30 pm The World Game

Wednesday 24 October
SBS ONE
5:30am (aedt) Live - UEFA Champions League: Barcelona v Celtic.

SBS TWO
9:30pm - UEFA Champions League: Barcelona v Celtic. (Repeat)

Thursday 25 October
SBS ONE
5:30am (aedt) Live - UEFA Champions League: Borussia Dortmund v Real Madrid.



FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER
Bundesliga Preview Show 7:00pm

SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER
Npower Championship Sheff Weds v Leeds 5:40am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Hoffenheim v Greuther Furth 8:00am 1st Airing
SPL St Mirren v Celtic 10:25pm **LIVE**

SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER
Bundesliga Dortmund v Schalke 12:25am **LIVE**
Npower Championship Burnley v Blackpool 3:15am **LIVE**
Eredivisie Heracles v Ajax 7:00am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Werder Bremen v Monchengladbach 10:30am 1st Airing
Npower Championship Crystal Palace v Millwall 12:15pm 1st Airing
Primera Division Racng v Newell's 3:45pm 1st Airing

MONDAY 22ND OCTOBER
SPL Hearts v Motherwell 3:00am 1st Airing
Eredivisie PSV v Willem II 7:30am 1st Airing
Primera Division Teams TBC 9:25am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Nuremburg v Augsburg 2:00pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Roda v Twente 3:45pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Hamburg v Stuttgart 5:30pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Highlights 7:00pm

TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER
Npower Championship Highlights 7:00pm
SPL Highlights 7:30pm
Eredivisie Highlights 8:00pm

THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER
Copa Sudamericana Round of 16 2nd Leg
Sao Paulo v LDU Loja 10:55am **LIVE**

FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER
Europa League Maribor v Tottenham 3:55am **LIVE**
Europa League Liverpool v Anzhi 6:00am **LIVE**
Europa League Newcastle v Brugge 8:00am 1st Airing
Europa League Panathinaikos v Lazio 9:45am 1st Airing
Europa League Group Stage Matchday 3 Highlights 7:00pm
Bundesliga Preview Show 8:00pm



Friday 19th Oct
02:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show
03:00 am Arsenal TV
08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Saturday 20th Oct
05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Sunday 21st Oct
06:00 am Arsenal TV

Monday 22nd Oct
03:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
12:30 pm The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 23rd Oct
03:00 am Arsenal TV

Thursday 25th Oct
02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup
03:00 am Bundesliga
05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

WEEK 9
Sat Oct 20 Tottenham v Chelsea
10.38 pm Fox 1
Sun Oct 21 Manchester United v Stoke
12.53 am Fox 1
Sun Oct 21 Fulham v Aston Villa
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 21 Liverpool v Reading
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 21 West Brom v Manchester City
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 21 West Ham v Southampton
12.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 21 Swansea v Wigan
1.00 pm DELAY
Sun Oct 21 Norwich v Arsenal
3.23 am Fox 1
Sun Oct 21 Sunderland v Newcastle
11.23 pm Fox 3
Mon Oct 22 QPR v Everton
1.53 am Fox 3

Hyundai A-League
All games **LIVE**

Fri Oct 19 Melbourne v Adelaide 7.30 pm
Sat Oct 20 Newcastle v Central Coast 5.30 pm
Sat Oct 20 West Sydney v Sydney 7.30 pm
Sun Oct 21 Wellington v Brisbane 2.30 pm
Sun Oct 21 Perth v Melbourne Heart 5.00 pm

FOX SPORTS FC
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

Round 03: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Victory (4) AUFC (2) Draw (2) - Jets (2) Mariners (3) Draw (3) - Wanderers (2) SFC (2) Draw (4) - Phoenix (2) Roar (5) Draw (1) - Glory (5) Heart (1) Draw (2)

SANTO CILAURO **04**

Melb Victory
Newcastle Jets
Draw
Phoenix
Perth Glory

Last week: 2

CRAIG MACKENZIE **03**

Draw
Draw
Draw
Brisbane Roar
Perth Glory

Last week: 2

EDDIE KRNEVIC **03**

Melb Victory
Draw
Sydney FC
Draw
Draw

Last week: 2

PETER KATHOLOS **02**

Melb Victory
Mariners
Wanderers
Brisbane Roar
Draw

Last week: 1

ROGER SLEEMAN **05**

Draw
Mariners
Draw
Brisbane Roar
Perth Glory

Last week: 2

ANDY HARPER **01**

Victory
Draw
Wanderers
Brisbane Roar
Perth Glory

Last week: 0

JOHN DOYLE **03**

Adelaide Utd
Mariners
Sydney FC
Brisbane Roar
Perth Glory

Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH **03**

Adelaide Utd
Jets
Draw
Phoenix
Heart

Last week: 1

Montgomery relishing Heskey reunion

By Ben O'Neill

FOR Mariners midfielder Nick Montgomery, Saturday's F3 Derby contest against the Jets won't be the first time that he has come up against Newcastle's marquee man Emile Heskey.

Indeed, Montgomery and Heskey share quite a history having faced off in numerous important matches down the years. "He's had a fantastic career," Montgomery said of Heskey. "I've been fortunate to play against him a couple of times. He's a big, strong, powerful striker. He brings other players into play and obviously gets his fair share of goals as well."

A few games in particular stand out as crucial clashes between the tough-as-nails midfielder Montgomery, and the burly 34-year-old target man Heskey.

In 2007, Montgomery's former club Sheffield United met Heskey's Wigan Athletic on the final day of the Barclays Premier League season. Showing his passion, fight and commitment to the Sheffield cause, Montgomery played through the pain barrier to participate in the match despite having been stretched off with a dislocated shoulder against Aston Villa a week earlier.

Unfortunately for the Blades and Montgomery, a 45th minute Wigan penalty combined with a Carlos Tevez inspired West Ham win over Manchester United at Old Trafford cruelly condemned Sheffield to the drop on goal difference.

"I remember the day and we just needed Manchester United

to win at home to West Ham and it wouldn't have mattered what result we had. But unfortunately for me 'Man United' lost to West Ham and we conceded a penalty to Wigan that day which got us relegated from the Premier League.

"It was a massive, massive blow for my career and obviously a bad memory, but that's all in the past now," he said.

In 2003, Montgomery's Sheffield went on a stellar run in England's Carling Cup competition. At this time, Heskey wore the red of Liverpool rather than the blue and white of Wigan, and the two teams met over two legs in the semi-final.

In the first leg Montgomery played 90 minutes, helping the Blades to a famous 2-1 victory over Liverpool at Bramall Lane. Heskey warmed the pine for Gerard Houllier's men.

In the second leg, Montgomery played 45 minutes against the Reds at Anfield in front of 43,837 fans. An ankle injury sustained in a challenge with John Arne Riise forced Montgomery from the field, before Michael Owen's extra time goal earned Liverpool their ticket to the Carling Cup showpiece at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. Heskey played the full 120 minutes while Senegalese forward El Hadji Diouf netted the goal which ultimately took the tense tie to extra time.

Not one to dwell on the past, Montgomery is instead relishing the chance to participate in this weekend's F3 Derby game having played dozens of 'Steel City Derbies' (Sheffield United vs.



The paths of former EPL stars Nick Montgomery (pictured) and Emile Heskey will cross once again this weekend.

Sheffield Wednesday) in the past. The Steel City Derby is widely considered to be England's most hotly contested clash, so Montgomery is certainly well versed in what it takes to triumph against a local rival.

"There's always just a massive buzz," Montgomery said of derby games. "For the fans it's great because when you live in such close proximity to another team you get family members who support one team and family members who support the other team.

"The whole week and in the build up towards the game there's a lot

of tension. "Derby games are fast and ferocious and obviously it's a high pressure game and probably a hundred mile an hour.

"But I think we've shown against Perth that we've got the qualities in the team to battle against strong physical teams, and when we get the ball we've passed it well.

"We can pass it a lot better and there's a lot more to come, but it's early in the season and we'll go there full of confidence," Montgomery concluded.

SMFC to host information session for all Members and Corporate Partners

South Melbourne FC wishes to advise its members and corporate partners that it will be holding an Information Session on Wednesday 17th October at 7pm in the President's Room at Lakeside Stadium. The agenda for the evening will be to inform the Club's stakeholders and discuss the following issues:

1. Social Club redevelopment
2. SMFC Youth Development Program
3. National Competitions Review

This Information Session will provide members and corporate partners the opportunity to be informed of the recent developments of the above agenda items, but also the opportunity to ask questions as well.

SFC YOUTH TEAM DEFEATS LAOS

The Sydney FC youth team produced a remarkable comeback to reach the final stages of the Vietnam International Youth tournament in Pleiku, defeating the Laos U21 national team 2-1 with a goal in the final minutes in its first match of the tournament.

It was a win the youngsters deserved after dominating large parts of the game, played in humid conditions.

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Mixed Competition begins Sun 18/11

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West Ham v Leeds Supporters' Tale
ADRIAN DEANS

Jane Oakley: Star of the Matildas and super coach

Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

Jane Oakley was inducted into the Football Federation Victoria Hall of Fame last week. It was further recognition of one of the most accomplished players and coaches in the game as she had already become a member of the national Hall of Fame in 2004 and received the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

Though her Dad played a bit of football in England, the young Jane Oakley had little or no soccer experience until a neighbour in Dandenong announced that she was going down to the football club and invited Jane to come along. She was immediately hooked and within a few years had caught up and surpassed her contemporaries. She remembers one of her coaches saying to her, 'Just play up front and do what you want to do', indicating that she was the sort of free spirit who could win games for the team given that role. 'At that time I didn't know anything about defending, but I had to learn later,' Jane admitted. Letting people do their own thing in a team game is not a strategy that she tended to adopt in her later coaching career. Yet there always was something of the old free spirit in all she did as a coach.

From Dandenong North in 1980 Jane Oakley graduated to the Victorian team in 1983 and the following year received the first of her 35 caps for Australia. Already she was looking beyond her playing career and qualified as a coach in 1985. Five years later she was development officer for the Victorian Soccer Federation while still playing for the Matildas. In 1995 Jane Oakley was part of the Australian team which qualified for the World Cup in Sweden. She played in all three games against Denmark, China and the United States. Though all three matches were lost, this was a key formative influence for the Matildas and Tom Sermanni built on that in his spells as coach of the national team.

In 1994 Jane Oakley was already a senior coach at the VSF and with the women's association. She became assistant coach of the national Under-19s and then coach of the Under-16s. She was the assistant coach with the Matildas when they competed in the Australia Cup in 2000 and she became head coach of the Women's National Training Centre in Victoria. This was a program for young women run in association with the Victorian Institute of Sport and Jane worked closely with Ernie Merrick who was in charge of VIS football. Their common interest in the incorporation of the latest sports science, biomechanics and coaching theory fed into both programs and the elite young women progressed rapidly as



VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION 2000
WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROW 2: Jane Oakley (Head Coach), Lucy Kapusta, Caroline Saville, Caroline McEvoy, Jenni Black, Nino La Scala (Physiotherapist), Diane Jansen, Melissa Lovie, Leah Terek, Rachel Lamb, Maggie Koumi (Team Manager).

FRONT: Natalie Kalow, Anthea Vardakas, Jessica Humble, Chiara Romano, Alena Kapusta, Sarah Groenewald, Selin Kuralay, Melissa Barbieri.



Above: Victoria Vision in 2000. Jane Oakley, back row, extreme left. Source: Victorian Soccer Federation, thanks to Maggie Koumi.

Left: Jane Oakley. Source: Unknown, taken from website.

Right and Below: Two pics of Jane Oakley playing for Victoria Under-17s in 2002, when she filled in to make up the team for a match in Bendigo. Photos: Roy Hay.



a result. Oakley's plans for her young squad were very ambitious. 'I firmly believe that we should not just benchmark on the Matildas, but we should do so against the best in the world, the women in the United States, China and Norway'. Among those who benefited from her coaching were Melissa Barbieri, Sarah Groenewald, Selin Kurulay

and Louisa Bisby. The NTC squad honed its skills against boys from the Victorian Super League clubs. Jane became an outstanding role model and the face of women's football in the 1980s and 1990s. Her photograph, together with Paul Wade, was on posters in every club throughout the State and she donated much of her time to

promoting the development of the Women's game. Her enthusiasm was such that when the Victorian Under-17s were short of a player for a practice match against a Bendigo side in January 2002 she pulled the boots on and took part in scorching heat in a curtain raiser for a Matildas match against South Korea. That experience paid off for the Ben-

digo girls as well for they won the Under-17 Victorian championship at Bentleigh Greens a couple of months later, while the Open Age Bendigo squad came third behind the two Metropolitan sides. It was always clear that Jane Oakley would forge a wide ranging career outside the game and in recent times she has been an area general

manager for Telstra, a director of Latrobe Regional Hospital and a Regional Director at the Department Planning and Community Development. She has a diploma from Swinburne University and continues to facilitate better access to health and communication technologies for residents of remote and regional areas.

Is Sergio van Dijk Bangkok-bound?



PHIL Stubbins failed in a bold bid to lure Archie Thompson to Thai football earlier this year but may now set his sights on Adelaide United striker Sergio van Dijk.

The A-League's 2010/11 Golden Boot winner is one of 10 Adelaide players whose contracts are up this season and Stubbins can negotiate with them at present and can sign them when January's transfer window opens.

Numerous reports last month linked van Dijk with Indonesian club Persib Bandung and suggested that Adelaide was holding out for a \$500,000 transfer fee for the gun striker.

It later emerged that Adelaide had allowed van Dijk time off to return to his adopted homeland of Indonesia to visit his parents.

Ex-Adelaide assistant coach Stubbins moved from his AIS coaching role to take over as head coach of Thai Premier League club Insee Police United in early February this year but seven games into the new season (three wins, three losses, one draw) the club asked him to take on the role of technical director.

Despite being frustrated at no longer having a hands-on role with the senior squad he agreed to the switch but was headhunted by Bangkok Glass in September and joined them as a consultant.

"I received a phone call from Bangkok Glass and I had a terrific meeting with the board. They were forward thinking and really commercially aware and they were vibrant when they talked about the future," said Stubbins earlier this week.

"They are one of the top clubs in Thailand. There's a fantastic football environment there with awesome facilities and staff."

Three weeks later his new club parted company with its head coach and offered Stubbins the position and the man from Hull took over on 1 October with seven games remaining.

"Now that I've moved on I wish them (Police United) well and will always be grateful to them for opening the door to opportunities here in Thailand," said Stubbins. "I'm concentrating now on establishing the best possible platform for next season."

"We have an upcoming FA Cup semi-final game against Buriram next Wednesday night with the winners of the competition gaining a play-off place for an AFC Champions League spot."

Ironically Bangkok Glass was beaten by Police United in Stubbins' second game in charge but right now he's on track to have the

last laugh as his new team is ninth and Police United 13th in the 18-team league.

Stubbins is under no illusion about the size of the change he will oversee and anticipates a major revamp of his senior squad.

"Basically my job is to implement change throughout the club's football structure and I'm looking forward to putting my own stamp on things."

"I'm definitely looking for players to strengthen the club and I'm confident that we can do well next year."

"Certainly A-League players coming out of contract, there'd be some interest there. The wages over here are slightly higher by comparison."

"If we can find the right player with the right fit for the club we'll definitely try to get past first base in terms of talks."

Bangkok Glass is cashed up and is prepared to back Stubbins, who was able to lure former Adelaide United midfielder Paul Reid to Police United early this year. Reid switched to Sydney FC in September.

Numerous reports last month linked van Dijk with Indonesian club Persib Bandung and suggested that Adelaide was holding out for a \$500,000 transfer fee for the gun striker.

Stubbins has a house in the north-east Adelaide suburb of Walkerville where his wife Anna lives and he plans to come home for a Christmas break.

No doubt he'll have time to reflect on his first season in Thai football and mull over a curious statistic.

In all he's been in charge of two clubs for 14 games. Due to the vagaries of Thai fixturing all of those games were away from home.

"Roll on next season. I can't wait to finally coach at home and get our crowd behind us," he said.

Young Roos taking shape DON'T be too disheartened by the Young Socceroos losing both friendlies against Portugal's under-20s in Portugal in the past week.

The exercise was a vital part of our preparations for the AFC championships in the UAE in November and coach Paul Okon made sure that everyone had a hit-out against the world's fourth-ranked youth



Dandenong Thunder head coach Chris Taylor (left) and technical director Ryder Taylor.



The Young Socceroos line-up before game one of a two-match series against Portugal's Under-20s.

outfit.

The first game ended in a 2-1 defeat but the Aussies were immense playing with 10 men for the last 30 minutes.

The second game ended up in a 4-1 rout and my guess is that the side Okon fielded in the first match was closer to his best 11.

"Today's game was against a world class opponent. We had a game plan which the players executed to perfection which was really pleasing," said Okon after the opening fixture.

"Against teams like Portugal you have to take your opportunities and we created two very good chances in the first half and should have been leading 2-0 at half time."

It's significant that Okon made three substitutions in that first game and eight in the second match.

Referee Hélder Malheiro was a busy man in game one issuing yellow cards to Jackson Irvine (Celtic), Corey Gameiro (FC Eindhoven), Adam Taggart (Newcastle Jets), Jamie MacLaren (Blackburn

Rovers) and goalkeeper Paul Izzo (Adelaide United) and sending off Connor Chapman (Newcastle Jets) in the 63rd minute.

Malheiro ruled that Chapman was the last man after the youngster had brought down Sporting Lisbon striker Betinho just outside the penalty area.

But not satisfied with one controversial decision, from the resulting free kick he awarded a penalty for handball against Adam Taggart who was part of the Aussie defensive wall.

Five minutes later Taggart was all smiles after getting on the end of a brilliant through ball from Curtis Good (Newcastle United) and finishing in style.

The young Aussies dug in and looked to have protected their goal until deep into injury time when Aladjé got onto a cross and stole the winner.

Referee Malheiro could only issue two yellow cards to the home team and the Goal! Weekly spy at the Municipal Stadium had one word to sum up the local whistler's display.



Bangkok Glass head coach Phil Stubbins.

end's VPL Grand Final at AAMI Park.

The state federation announced on Tuesday that it was investigating incidents involving "flares and rockets launched after both Dandenong goals from a large section of their supporters positioned behind the goal."

The FFV media release said: "One rocket deflected off a second tier signage board and hit two spectators. Neither spectator suffered serious injury but both were shocked by the experience."

FFV CEO Mark Rendell has made it clear that his organisation takes incidents such as this very seriously and is working with Victoria Police and venue management to identify the people responsible.

"FFV has zero tolerance for this type of behaviour as we believe everyone involved in the game, be they players, referees, coaches or spectators have the right to feel safe at a ground. Once we have gathered all relevant material this matter will go to FFV's independent tribunal for resolution," said Rendell.

Thunder president Merson Azizi says that his club is prepared to work with Victoria Police and FFV to help identify the culprits but believed it might be a difficult task.

"We had a large group of supporters from our community from Shepparton and we might not be able to identify all of these people," he said.

"But we will do our best. We have made it clear for a long time now that this behaviour is not acceptable and we stand by that."

FFV received CCTV material from the venue on Wednesday and it's expected that Azizi and his club will go through the footage with the federation.

Thunder coach Chris Taylor raised an interesting point by asking why his club could be taken to task for the failure of ground security to do their job.

"I'm the coach and I had my bag searched when entering the ground so how the hell can someone get a bloody rocket launcher in there?" he asked.

"That's security's job to stop that sort of thing, surely."

The entire affair has cast a shadow over the wonderful achievement of Thunder in becoming the first Victorian men's team in 31 years to do the treble.

If Thunder is charged with misconduct it won't be the first time in the club's colourful history but I've been told that Sunday's shenanigans will be looked at in isolation.

My understanding is that the club was on a "good behaviour bond" which expired in August.

If Thunder has to front the tribunal there are a range of sanctions that can be brought to bear against Victoria's premier club.

Let's hope that stripping Thunder of its Grand Final triumph is not one of them. That surely would be a totally disproportionate penalty for any crime committed

Thunder clouds forming DANDENONG Thunder faces a nervous wait for the results of an FFV investigation into crowd behaviour at last week-

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FOz Cup first round of the Futsal Oz V-League

The opening round of the FOz cup saw big crowds, plenty of goals and great futsal action. Nike V-League premiers Pascoe Vale progressed to the next round as did their fierce rivals Vic Vipers FC, FC Balwyn and Hume FC all advance to the next round with good victories.

Pascoe Vale FC to strong for gallant FC Essendon

A Clinical Pascoe Vale FC got off to the perfect start in the FOz Cup with victory over FC Essendon. In a tight first half Essendon took and early lead only for Pascoe Vale to respond with two quick goals. Essendon drew level with two minutes left in the half, however Pascoe Vale went into the break with the lead with a late strike to give them the lead. In the second half Pascoe Vale were to strong for FC Essendon as their superior fitness and clinical finishing was the difference as it finished 8-6 in a high scoring affair.

Pascoe Vale FC 8 (Ernie Simsek 3, Jose Portillo 2, Brenno Polatti, Mark Burton, James Blackburn) **def. CF Essendon 6** (Ignat Filipovic 2, Diego Assaeda, Philip Robotis, Michele Giotta, Vlado Zoric)

Vic Vipers FC earn the points the hard way verse FC Prahran

In a game where both team could have easily walk away with victory it was the big match experience of Vic Vipers that proved to be the difference in this one. The first half was an even affair with both teams unable to put the ball in the back of the net as both keepers were producing top class saves. With the scores locked 0-0 at half time it looked like the odd goal could be enough for victory and it proved that way. Jonathan Barrientos opened the scoring for Vic Vipers only for Prahran veteran Ivan Zelic to draw the teams level. Vipers took the lead mid-way through second half when Jusuf Advic scored from a well worked corner and with 30seconds remaining a cheeky Adam Cooper chip sealed the victory for the Vipers as they won it 3-1 to advance to the next round.

Vic Vipers 3 (Jonathan Barrientos, Jusuf Advic, Adam Cooper)



FC Prahran happy during a time out in the first half during the Futsal FOz Cup first round match against Vic Vipers FC.



Mark Saric of FC Balwyn scores against Ashburton keeper Jason Nu during the Futsal FOz Cup first round match between FC Balwyn and Ashburton.



FC Essendon keeper Daniel Melo can do nothing to stop Jose Portillo of Pascoe Vale FC strike on goal.



Futsal Oz would also like to wish Fernando de Moraes and the rest of the Futsalroo squad bound for the FIFA Futsal World Cup the best of luck during the tournament.

def. FC Prahran 1 (Izan Zelic)

FC Balwyn ease there way past Ashburton

This was a game that Ashburton was always going to struggle in as manager Maurice Cristiano failed to qualify enough players for the FOz cup and was forced to take a three goal penalty before kick off. Ashburton were also missing the influential Sofiane Soufi and Balwyn to full advantage racing to a 6-2 half time lead. The second half had a mini fight back for Ash-

burton but it was to little too late and the match finished 9-5 to FC Balwyn

FC Balwyn 9 (Mark Saric 4, Tony Imeri, Ben Bodo) **def. Ashburton FC 5** (Matteo Rocca 4, Julien Afonseca)

Hume FC come from behind and takes victory in extra time over Metro

This was a game that Metropolitan FC will be regretting for some time. Metropolitan got off to a

flying start and raced to a 3-0 lead with two sublime finishes from Alexander Stevanovic and a Dino Redzepovic tap-in looked to have Metropolitan in control. The first half finished 4-1 to Metropolitan but Hume had a number of chances but was unable to convert. The second half Hume took the game away from Metropolitan and scored three unanswered goals to force the game into extra time. The extra time period

was all about Vadim Mazursky from Hume as he scored three goals in the extra time to take the game away from a self destructing Metropolitan and the ran out victors 8-4 to advance to the next round.

Hume FC 8 (Vadim Mazursky 5, Sacid Cicek 2, Resit Culculuglu) **def. Metropolitan FC 4** (Alexander Stevanovic 3, Dino Redzepovic) *aet.*

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	22	19	1	2	152	68	+84	58
2 Vic Vipers FC	22	15	5	2	109	65	+44	50
3 FC Balwyn	22	15	2	5	130	82	+48	47
4 Metropolitan FC	22	13	1	8	138	119	+19	40
5 Hume FC	22	13	0	9	114	83	+31	39
6 Ashburton FC	22	12	1	9	119	116	+3	37
7 FC Prahran	22	9	3	10	96	97	-1	30
8 FC Essendon	22	7	2	13	95	129	-34	23
9 CF Brunswick	22	7	1	14	85	105	-20	22
10 Albert Park FC	22	4	4	14	83	119	-36	16
11 FC Collingwood	22	5	0	17	80	136	-56	15
12 Elsternwick FC	22	3	0	19	95	177	-82	9

Congratulations
Pascoe Vale FC
2012 CHAMPIONS

Promotion / Relegation Playoff matches - Wed 24th Oct

8:10 FC Melbourne vs. CF Brunswick
9:00 FC Collingwood vs. Morland FC
9:50 Albert Park FC vs. Brighton FC

FOz Cup CLASHES Wed 24th Oct

7:20pm – Pascoe Vale FC vs. FC Balwyn

Top Goal Scorers

Sofiane Soufi (Ashburton FC)– 50 Goals
Alexander Stevanovic (Metropolitan FC) – 36 Goals
Dino Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) – 33 Goals
Joao Da Silva (Pascoe Vale) – 32 Goals
Ben Bodo (FC Balwyn) – 29 Goal
Alija Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) – 27 Goals

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Taylor's Thunder Completes Historic Trophy Treble

By George Stogiannou

The VPL championship trophy is heading to South Dandenong for the first time in its history after Dandenong Thunder defeated Oakleigh Cannons 2-1 in a dramatic VPL Grand Final at AAMI Park stadium on Sunday evening.

The win completes a clean sweep of all three major trophies this season for Chris Taylor's heralded Thunder team.

The Cannons went into the final refreshed after the week's extra rest but without the services of injured midfielder Haydn Doyle for whom Frank Lagana came into the side. Thunder, who'd lost Andrew Mullett to suspension and Matt Theodore to injury were boosted by defender Craig Elvin's swift return from injury.

The first half followed a familiar pattern of recent meetings between the two sides, a tense tight match of few clear cut openings. Thunder's best chance came in the opening minutes when Nathan Foster-Bowen's free header from a Ross Thompson free kick, whistled past the far post. The Cannons' Ricky Diaco and Rasmus Festeren each fired shots at goal in the opening minutes without troubling keeper Stuart Webster. Cannons defence kept a tight rein on Golden Boot winner Luke Sherbon who endured a frustrating first half. Foster-Bowen was busy trying to provide a target, whilst for the Cannons, midfield playmaker Lambros Honos made a couple of promising runs at the heart of the Thunder defence. In general play Thunder maintained better possession without penetrating whilst Oakleigh was guilty of giving the ball away cheaply at times.

The Cannons showed more determination to attack at the start



Dandenong Thunder make it a clean sweep by adding the VPL title to the Pre-season Cup, State Cup, Coach of the Year (Chris Taylor), Golden Boot (Luke Sherbon) and Goalkeeper of the Year (Stuart Webster), to the trophy cabinet this season. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

of the second half with Honos setting up a good chance for Lagana who skewed his shot wide of the target. The final exploded into action in the 59' minute mark when Thunder defender Elvin received a second yellow card in a game littered with yellows.

However, a 67th minute foul on Thunder midfielder Iqbal Jawadi, saw Luke Sherbon step up to the edge of the box and fire a ten man Thunder into the lead with a 20 metre direct free kick inside the far post. Sherbon celebrated by taking his shirt off and running to the Thunder fans behind the Yarra River end goal who couldn't contain their delight any longer,

releasing a couple of flares. It was the first time Thunder had taken the lead against the Cannons all season but it lasted just five minutes before Oakleigh sub Dane Milavonovic won a penalty which striker Ricky Diaco finished with composure.

The Cannons with a man advantage and the score at 1-1, then lost central defensive midfielder Luke Walker who received a second yellow when he kicked the ball away after conceding a free kick. With both sides down to ten men, and the spaces opening up in attack, Liam Kearney and Sherbon combined to pick out Foster-Bowen's diagonal run in behind the Oak-

leigh defence for the Canadian's 81st minute match winner sending the Thunder fans into ecstasy. With time running out Oakleigh launched an all out attack on the Thunder goal and appealed desperately for an injury time penalty for a handball in the box, which the referee waved away, prompting Thunder defender Bryan Bran to look heavenwards whilst making the sign of the cross.

Moments later it was all over and Cannons players slumped helplessly to the ground in defeat whilst the Thunder team and coaching staff streamed down the ground to join their fans behind the Yarra end goal in celebration.

After the game, scorer of the winning goal Foster-Bowen praised the Thunder fans, saying "It was the biggest game he had ever played in." "The crowd was amazing. They've been with us all season. They've given us so much. You want to give something back to them as well." Thunder coach Chris Taylor commented, "I'm ecstatic. When you win anything you need that bit of luck and I think we've had luck all through the season. We've kept the same side on the park. Everything kind of fell into place. I mean Nate (Foster Bowen), just walked in off the street. We picked up a couple of good kids Mullett

and Iqi (Jawadi) who has been probably the find of the season for me. Sherbs played well up front in a new role for him."

"It's the best group of boys I've had to work with. The harmony within the dressing room has been really good. They're probably the best side in the VPL for a number of years."

In contrast a devastated Cannons striker Ricky Diaco, said after the match, "It sort of feels like a bad dream at the moment, but its reality. What can you say, it's two years in a row. It hurts, It hurt last year. There's not much to say is there?" Cannons co-coach Billy Theodoropoulos commented, "Some may say it's a success to have made the grand final. But I'm bitterly disappointed because we had the team to win it. Obviously today we were a little bit off and you can't do that on the big stage. Full credit to Dandy, they've been up all year."

VPL Grand Final Match Details:

Dandenong Thunder:

S.Webster, S.Rexhepi, C.Elvin, B.Bran, R.Thompson, L.Kearney, S.Mala, I.Jawadi, N.Foster Bowen (V.Korcari 92'), L.Sherbon, S.McIlroy.
Coach: Chris Taylor

Scorer: Sherbon 67', Foster Bowen 81'.
Red Card: Elvin 59'.

Oakleigh Cannons:

L.Italiano, S.Mitchinson (R.Tavsanoglu 46'), J.Cumming, C.Andersen, A.Drakos, L.Walker, F.Lagana (D.Milovanovic 69'), L.Honos, R.Festeren, R.Diaco, G.Zoric (E.Christodoulou 82').
Coach: Peter Zois

Scorer: Diaco (72' Pen).
Red Card: L.Walker 78'



Oakleigh's Goran Zoric feels the pain of losing a Grand Final. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Coach of the Year Chris Taylor enjoys the spoils with veteran Veton Korcari and Shane Rexhepi. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Up they go and they all miss it ... Frankie Lagana (16), Stuart Webster and Bryan Bran (5). Shane Rexhepi watches it unfold. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Luke Sherbon can't contain his delight after pulling Thunder back on level terms. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Nate Foster-Bowen thanks the heavens above after scoring the winner, and is joined in celebration by Bryan Bran. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Thunder players share the joy with their travelling army of supporters. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

In the South American zone, things are quite simply hotting up. Argentina's world class forwards were instrumental in a 2-1 away over Chile on Wednesday that gave the visitors a three-point lead in the standings as the World Cup qualifying campaign takes a break until March next year. They rode their luck in the opening half hour when Chile created several chances and exposed its weaknesses at the back but then showed superior finishing to settle the match. With Lionel Messi and Gonzálo Higuaín striking within minutes of each other half an hour into the match, taking their personal tallies to seven, Chile's hopes were quickly dashed and the stadium silenced. Chile kept fighting on via the left wing with Jean Beausejour and Mauricio Isla on the right but it was too little, too late pulling one back through substitute Felipe Gutiérrez in added time at the end of the game. Argentina have 20 points from nine matches, three more than Ecuador, who drew 1-1 away at Venezuela, and four ahead of Colombia, who have a game in hand. Chile are sixth level on points with Uruguay although on a negative goal difference. The Chileans were without defender Pablo Contreras and midfielder Arturo Vidal who were sent off on the weekend away to Ecuador. Claudio Borghi's side were top of the table three rounds ago but have lost three on the trot. On the positive side, their performance in the home loss to Argentina brought much relief with some much-needed improved football. "We have forwards of huge standing who normally never forgive (mistakes). Argentina were sharper with their finishing," Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella told reporters. "We knew Chile would take the ball from us a lot and we had to be very concentrated in defence", said coach Sabella who was Borghi's team-mate for Argentina's successful 1986 World Cup campaign. Earlier in the week Argentina defeated Uruguay with Messi in a two-goal performance in their 3-0 home victory in Mendoza. Messi created and finished his first goal in the 66th minute, play-



Radamel Falcao in hot form scoring in Colombia's last two Qualifying matches

ing the ball to Di María and racing through to tap the rebound past Fernando Muslera. Argentina went two up nine minutes later with another move on the left, Messi again feeding Di María who returned the ball with his first touch where Sergio Agüero touched it into the net. The third goal in the 80th minute came from a cheeky free kick by Messi, who deceived the Uruguay wall by sliding the ball underneath them and inside the base of the near post when they jumped expecting a shot to one of the upper corners. Messi has taken his tally in the qualifiers to seven. Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella has seen his side pick up 16 points in six matches since an early slump of results, looking more balanced with each match and improving in defence behind a quality attack featuring Messi, Sergio Agüero, Gonzálo Higuaín and Ángel Di María. Uruguay, the top South American team at the 2010 finals in South Africa where they finished fourth, lost 4-1 to Bolivia in La Paz, where striker Carlos Saucedo bagged a hat-trick. Bolivia now under Spanish-born Xavier Azkargorta once again in charge since their last and only successful World Cup campaign in 1994 have not lost in their last two

home outings. They sure did their hopes some good with a 1-1 draw to Peru at high altitude in La Paz although they felt they should have taken the three points. Bolivia's emphatic win over Uruguay capped off their improvement. The Uruguayans, renowned for their strong defence and potent counter-attack have conceded 11 goals in their last three away matches and taken one point out of a possible 12, yet are in fifth place equal with Venezuela and Chile. Luis Suárez scored Uruguay's late consolation. Fifth position in CONMEBOL group qualification is good enough for a play-off, and for Uruguay just like three years ago when they needed to beat Costa Rica over two legs to pick up the last berth for South Africa. "We still have chances (of qualifying). If Bolivia, who had five points, thought about going to the World Cup and will continue thinking that with this victory, why can't we with 12 points?" coach Oscar Tabárez said.

THE RESURGENT WINNERS
Colombia and Ecuador, coached by Colombian Reinaldo Rueda who steered Honduras to the last World Cup finals, are one point behind Argentina in second and third place.
Sitting just behind are fourth-

placed Venezuela, looking to reach the finals for the first time, and bottom team Paraguay are separated by a mere five points, underlining how little it takes for a side to appear to have slipped in or out of contention. Venezuela returned to action after a bye last weekend and were held to a 1-1 draw by Ecuador in Puerto La Cruz but the point was enough to enter the top four who qualify directly for the 2014 finals in Brazil. Playmaker Juan Arango gave Venezuela an early lead with a magnificent shot from outside the box but similar stunning efforts from the home captain were saved and one hit the bar. Ecuador have a perfect home record of five wins but have picked up only two points in their four away matches so far, equalised through Segundo Castillo in the 24th minute. Last weekend Ecuador manage to turn around proceedings when defender Paredes smashed in an own-goal only for prolific forward Felipe Caicedo to bag a brace in Ecuador's 3-1 home win over Chile. The main focus is with Colombia. Since Argentina's 2006 World Cup coach José Pekerman has taken the reigns, a revived side has taken the pitch winning their last three matches in style scoring nine goals. Radamel Falcao scored both goals



Star-struck Paraguayan linesman decided to pose with Lionel Messi during half-time in the Chile v Argentina match

for a tally of five overall as an impressive Colombia team beat Paraguay 2-0. In mid-week action the Colombian side played out a friendly with Cameroon with a 3-0 victory. Bottom-placed Paraguay having lost three matches under new coach Gerardo Pelusso, beat Peru 1-0 in Asunción. In what was a battle between Uruguayan coaches at both ends, with Sergio Markarián in the Peruvian bench it was the home side with a headed goal from central defender Pablo Aguilar who grabbed three points to regain their slim hopes of reaching their fifth finals in a row.

THE LONG HARD ROAD
Colombia boss José Pekerman warned that Colombia could not rest on their laurels and there was a hard slog ahead to stay in the qualifying berths.
"A very hard 2013 awaits us when all the teams will fight, like Paraguay fought, to retain their chances... we haven't won anything yet," said Pekerman, whose side have a bye in the next round of qualifiers on Tuesday. "These points get you closer (to the finals) but they don't assure you of anything, you have to keep adding." Uruguay are fourth, five points off the pace at the halfway stage in the nine-nation, 16-match campaign. Chile were also finalists in South

Sth America World Cup Standings							
Standings:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	9	6	2	1	20	7	20
Ecuador	9	5	2	2	12	9	17
Colombia	8	5	1	2	14	6	16
Venezuela	9	3	3	3	8	9	12

Uruguay	9	3	3	3	16	18	12

Chile	9	4	0	5	14	18	12
Bolivia	9	2	2	5	12	14	8
Peru	9	2	2	5	10	15	8
Paraguay	9	2	1	6	6	16	7

Africa and will need to gain points in March away to Peru in Lima followed by home matches to Uruguay, Bolivia and Venezuela next year not to mention an away trip to Asunción to play Paraguay. Venezuela and Ecuador look to regain their form as well having clashed and play out tough assignments away especially with Argentina and Chile although both host Uruguay at their respective home grounds next year. It is without a doubt the toughest and most competitive continental zone in the world to contest qualification for the game's ultimate prize. When the qualifiers end in 2013, the top four will automatically go through to the finals in Brazil the following year with the fifth-placed side facing a play-off against an Asian team for one more berth.

CHILE STUN HOME CROWD WITH EMPHATIC VICTORY...
By Ben Carpenter

The 2012 Homeless World Cup came to a climax with a thrilling Final between host nation Mexico and their South American rivals Chile. The Zocalo, a square at the heart of Mexico City, was filled to capacity with screaming fans creating a colourful spectacle and an electric atmosphere. Mexico were the favourites, but Chile produced an impressive display, ripping up the script to deny Mexico an unprecedented double,

following their women's team's victory earlier in the day. The Mexican captain majestically led his team on to the pitch wearing his country's flag as a cape and an impressive black sombrero. The Chilean team were led out by their talismanic captain who was unfortunately injured and unable to play in the final. The players from both teams gave lung-bursting renditions of their national anthems, the pride visibly swelling in their chests and the crowd added to the air of expectation with a trademark Mexican Wave. With the football underway, it

seemed to be going to plan as Mexico opened the scoring with an improvised headed goal. But the Chileans refused to lie down, matching the physicality of the Mexicans and not allowing them to settle into their usual rhythm. Chile have been tactically superb all week and they began to execute some excellent street soccer moves. Defending cleverly and then attacking with speed, they successfully scored from acute wide angles. Mexico were unable to get their captain involved in the game and by half time the pockets of Chilean support were beginning to be heard.

With the scores level at half time, the Mexican coach conducted his team talk on the pitch. A substitution was made by Mexico but as play re-started, the pattern of play was the same, with Chile twice creating space out wide and scoring with fierce shots across the goal-keeper. Half way through the second half, Chile were leading 7-4 and an upset was becoming a distinct possibility. With 90 seconds remaining, it was the Chilean fans who were 'Ole'-ing every pass, but as they lost the ball and Mexico broke, a Chile defender desperately brought the Mexican

attacker down and gave the referee no choice but to brandish the blue card. Chile would have to finish the game with only three players. This was Mexico's chance and after scoring from the resulting free kick there was a sense that a comeback was on the cards at 7-5. The crowd were on their feet and the tension in the stadium was almost unbearable as a Mexican player missed a golden opportunity to reduce the deficit to one goal. Instead, Chile counter-attacked and restored their three-goal lead, effectively sealing the victory. As the final whistle blew, there was

sheer joy for the Chilean players, some sinking to their knees and the others jumping all over each other. The Mexican players, like many of their fans, could hardly believe what had happened. Ultimately, though, Chile provided the more accomplished team performance and were crowned worthy champions of the 2012 Homeless World Cup. Meanwhile, the Mexican women's team put on a polished display to capture the Women's Homeless World Cup, beating rivals Brazil 6-2.



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London Calling



By Samuel Collins

"This is step one, but this is a significant moment." Ian Ayre, Liverpool's managing director, was speaking about the club's intentions to redevelop Anfield, the Red's legendary home. The news represents a brief moment of positivity surrounding a side who have suffered their worst opening to a campaign in 101 years.

Brendan Rodger's men sit 14th in the Premier League, with just 6 points from 7 fixtures. The former Swansea coach's only league victory thus far came at relegation favourites Norwich last month, thanks to Luis Suarez' hat-trick. But board blunders and injuries mean the Uruguayan forward is now Liverpool's only fit forward. As furious fans of the club - without a league title since 1990 - will concur, Ayre and the board's most recent 'significant moment' has contributed greatly to Liverpool's disastrous start.

Just over six weeks ago on deadline day - one that seemed as anarchic as ever - hours after Liverpool had sanctioned the sales of midfielders Charlie Adam (Stoke), Jay Spearing (Bolton) and the



Liverpool aim to rebuild on and off the pitch

New Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers in the famous tunnel at Anfield.

loan transfer of Andy Carroll (infamously to West Ham), Ayre and co failed to bring in any replacements, notably a striker. The animosity from the Reds' faithful which followed was unprecedented at times, with forums and Twitter full of hostility. Most memorable was Liverpool's failure to secure the signing of Clint Dempsey from Fulham. The versatile American international en-

joyed a remarkable 2011/12 season - 23 goals in 46 appearances - and was available for £7m, a price the scrutinised board found the 29-year old unworthy of. This was the move that was meant to happen. Dempsey to Liverpool, a matter of time, was the feeling going into August 31st. When Dempsey turned down Aston Villa, who saw their £7m bid accepted, it looked even more like a formality. In-

stead, Tottenham stepped in and took the Fulham man to White Hart Lane for £6m. Liverpool's £5m offer wasn't enough, and the Merseysiders had to make do with the addition of 18-year old German unknown Samed Yesil, signed 24 hours earlier. The fact Ayre reportedly drove home two hours before the official transfer deadline didn't help matters. Add to that, the exits of internationals

Dirk Kuyt, Craig Bellamy and Maxi Rodriguez earlier in the summer, and the frustration is easy to acknowledge.

"Rodgers' head will explode with rage" tweeted Paul Dalglish, son of former Kop coach Kenny. Two days later, the Northern Irishman watched his side taken apart by Arsenal at Anfield, a possible sign of the distance in quality between Liverpool and the 'Top Four'. But Rodgers, who worked with Jose Mourinho at Chelsea for three years, insists his side were as good as any. "Our first eleven," Rodgers asserted recently, "are as good as any in the league." Whilst there's some truth to that statement - particularly in mid-field where in Lucas Leiva, Joe Allen, Steven Gerrard and the on-loan Nuri Sahin have genuine class - as Mourinho declared in September, Rodgers "can't make miracles". The Real Madrid manager told Sky Sports "Liverpool aren't the best team in the Premier League, they're not even close." And who would argue with the Special One?

You also wonder if Rodgers might be regretting agreeing to take part in 'Being: Liverpool'. The fly-on-the-wall documentary follows the club around during their pre-season preparations in the USA. Despite showing off moments of Rodgers' astute management skills, and coaching ability, whether Rodgers cringes when watching is an intriguing thought. The '3-Envelope' farce - Rodgers replicating an old Sir Alex Ferguson trick from the

early Nineties - left neutrals in stitches on these shores. The Liverpool boss tells his observant squad he has written down three players' names he thinks will "let us down this year" and puts them into envelopes he is holding. Were there actually any names in them? There weren't in 1993 when Fergie did it. But the Manchester United boss did it with the aim of avoiding complacency following a first league success in twenty years. Rodgers is trying to maneuver a club from 8th to 4th in the table - a gap which totaled 17 points last season.

The five-year extension of Anfield - from 45,000 to 60,000 - is due for completion, conveniently, in Liverpool's 125th-year anniversary. The league cup holders remain one of football's most illustrious clubs, despite their decline in recent seasons, and in Rodgers, they have one of Britain's most promising coaches. His 11th-place finish with Swansea last term - which ironically finished with a 1-0 win against Liverpool in Wales - was critically acclaimed, but it was the unique 'Tiki-Taka' style of play which impressed most. A feature of Wigan coach Roberto Martinez's play too - someone Liverpool spoke with before appointing Rodgers.

An upgraded Anfield must be entered with an upgraded squad too. With funds promised for Rodgers to use in the January window, the rebuilding process on the pitch should be imminent.



Balkan Wrap

By Alex Milic

The Montenegrin falcons are flying high in Group H World Cup qualifiers following an impressive 1:0 win against Ukraine in Kiev. The only goal came at the stroke of half-time from Dejan Damjanovic and Stevan Jovetic had the chance to seal the win with ten minutes remaining but the Fiorentina striker scuffed his penalty. Branko Brnovic's men kept their cool and take home an important three points from the Ukrainian capital.

Damjanovic who plays for Korean side FC Seoul said after the match "This is a big win for us, against a big team from a big country. We are 100 times smaller than Ukraine, but football is such a wonderful game which gives everyone an equal chance over 90 minutes. We are a very good squad, with lots of talent, and I think we deserved this win. I am happy my goal was decisive and I hope this goal can take us all the way to Brazil."

In Group G, Bosnia and Herzegovina are on the top with ten



Montenegro players celebrating

points from four matches, the most important was the point won in Athens against group favourites Greece who have the same points as Bosnia. Safet Susic's men overpowered Lithuania in Zenica 3:0 with first half goals from Vedad Ibisevic, Edin Dzeko and Miralem Pjanic confirming the great form Susic's men are in. The biggest disappointment in the qualifiers so far has been Serbia, who lost at home to Group A leaders Belgium 3:0 following an impressive showing in the first half, but there can be no explanation or excuses for the 1:0 loss to Macedonia in Skopje. Sinisa Mihajlovic's men who play in the best leagues in Europe at some of the best clubs in the world had nothing to show against a Macedonia side which played with all of

their heart and did their nation proud. The loss has put Serbia six points behind the front runners Belgium and Croatia who have ten points.

Igor Stimac's men edged out Macedonia in Skopje 2:1 coming from behind with goals from Vedran Corluka and Ivan Rakitic. In Zagreb, Mario Mandzukic and Eduardo got the three points for the Croats against Wales. In Round 9 of the Serbian Super-Liga, FK Rad takes on league leaders Partizan in the derby match of the round, while Red Star looks to bounce back from the previous round loss to Spartak when they welcome BSK Borca to the Marakana.



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It is the story of two remarkable young, talented Aboriginal women from very different childhoods on either side of the country making it to the World's biggest stage, the FIFA Women's World Cup finals.

Ibrahimovic team talk inspired Sweden

Sweden coach Erik Hamren has praised Zlatan Ibrahimovic's leadership qualities after their 4-4 draw against Germany on Tuesday.

Sweden trailed 4-0 before Ibrahimovic's goal just after the hour-mark paved the way for a comeback, completed by Rasmus Elm in additional time.

Hamren was quick to highlight the impact the Paris Saint-Germain striker had on his team in his role as captain in the World Cup qualifier.

"He gave a really good talk during half-time and he showed me why he's captain," Hamren said. "We saw him fighting and giving his energy to the other players. He showed the strength of character he has."

"When we took two steps



forward and gave him more support, he showed how good he is."

Goals from Mikael Lustig, Johan Elmander and Elm gave the Swedes the most unlikely of draws after Joachim Loew's

side had given themselves a four-goal lead.

The point took Sweden second in Group C ahead of their home clash against the Republic of Ireland on March 22.

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LIVE THE DREAM



By Simon Pearson

England and Poland Share The Spoils

Goals from Wayne Rooney and Kamil Glik saw England and Poland share the spoils of a 1-1 draw in their World Cup qualifier in Warsaw.

Rooney opened the scoring with a header from Steven Gerrard's corner in the first half but Glik replied in the same fashion after half-time in a match rescheduled from Tuesday due to a water-logged pitch.

Poland might have had the lead in the ninth minute when Jakub Wawrzyniak's low cross into the area reached Kamil Grosicki, but the midfielder's first-time effort on his left foot was scuffed.

England were struggling to keep the ball past the halfway line with some lazy distribution, and their greatest threat in the first half-hour came through James Milner, who got forward on the right and almost set up an incoming Jermain Defoe at the near post.

The visitors took the lead against the run of play through Rooney, who prodded home a header after some lax marking from Lukasz Piszczek.

Poland kept coming, Grosicki picking up a brilliant flicked pass forward from Robert Lewandowski and firing his shot just wide, but England's advantage held to the interval.

Glen Johnson bailed Phil Jagielka out when the Everton man's di-



Referee Gianluca Rocchi inspects the pitch before Poland and England at the National Stadium in Warsaw.

sastrous touch in the area nearly let Lewandowski in moments after the break, but the hosts kept pressing and Joe Hart had to tap over in order to deny Ludovic Obraniak's long-range effort.

Defoe, isolated in the second half, was thwarted by Glik at close range shortly after the hour mark before being replaced by Danny Welbeck. The substitute looked to have teed up Rooney for a second as he drew goalkeeper Przemyslaw Tyton out of position but the Manchester United striker blasted over.

England were punished as Poland earned a corner at the other end and Glik, let in by Hart's failed attempt to punch clear, headed home.

England remained on the back foot but had moments of threat at the other end, Milner flashing another cross through the face of goal with Welbeck lurking.

To sneak all three points would have flattered Roy Hodgson's men, however.

EPL Preview

The English Premier League gets back into action Saturday after taking a week off for the

international break.

One of the many matches on Saturday takes place at Old Trafford, where Manchester United will host Stoke City.

Going into the match, United sit in second place in the EPL table, four points behind league leaders Chelsea.

The Red Devils will be looking to repair their damaged home form after losing to Tottenham in a 3-2 thriller in their last EPL home match at the end of September. Stoke sit in 12th place with eight points and they have only failed to earn a point in one match this season, a 1-0 loss to Chelsea.

The trademark of the 2012-13 season for the Potters has been low-scoring draws.

The Potters lead the EPL in draws this season and have only once scored more than one goal, that occurred on September first in a 2-2 draw with Wigan.

The last thing anyone on the Manchester United roster will want to do on Saturday is look ahead to the upcoming fixtures that the Red Devils will face.

In the next three weeks, United will face a home-and-home series with Braga in the Champions

ENGLAND

EPL



Last5games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Chelsea	7	6	1	0	15	4	+11	19	W W W D W
2 Manchester United	7	5	0	2	17	9	+8	15	W L W W W
3 Manchester City	7	4	3	0	15	8	+7	15	W W D W W
4 Everton	7	4	2	1	14	8	+6	14	D W W D L
5 Tottenham Hotspur	7	4	2	1	13	8	+5	14	W W W W D
6 West Bromwich ...	7	4	2	1	11	7	+4	14	W D W L W
7 Arsenal	7	3	3	1	13	5	+8	12	W L D W W
8 West Ham United	7	3	2	2	8	8	+0	11	L W D W D
9 Fulham	7	3	1	3	15	11	+4	10	D L W W L
10 Newcastle United	7	2	3	2	8	11	-3	9	L D W D D
11 Swansea City	7	2	2	3	12	11	+1	8	D L L L D
12 Stoke City	7	1	5	1	6	5	+1	8	D W L D D
13 Sunderland	6	1	4	1	5	7	-2	7	L W D D D
14 Liverpool	7	1	3	3	9	12	-3	6	D W L D L
15 Wigan Athletic	7	1	2	4	7	13	-6	5	D L L L D
16 Aston Villa	7	1	2	4	6	12	-6	5	L D L W D
17 Southampton	7	1	1	5	12	20	-8	4	D L W L L
18 Reading	6	0	3	3	8	13	-5	3	D D L L L
19 Norwich City	7	0	3	4	5	17	-12	3	L L L D D
20 QPR	7	0	2	5	6	16	-10	2	L L L D L

League, two away matches against Chelsea, one in the EPL and one in the Capital One Cup, as well as a home EPL match with Arsenal.

United have plenty of depth to get through these matches but they may face some concerns heading into Saturday.

With England's match against Poland being postponed to Wednesday, that means that five players involved in Saturday's match at Old Trafford will not return to their clubs until Thursday.

This is not a major concern for Stoke manager Tony Pulis as defender Ryan Shawcross did not play in Warsaw.

Fatigue could be a major concern for Sir Alex Ferguson as four of his regular starters featured in Roy Hodgson's side on Wednesday.

Midfielders Michael Carrick and Tom Cleverley, along with forward duo Wayne Rooney and Danny Welbeck, played in England's 1-1 draw with Poland.

The good news for Ferguson is that he has plenty of players to cover for those four players with Robin van Persie a lock to start up front along with either Chicharito or Welbeck, who only played 23 minutes as a sub on Wednesday.

Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes could be called on to shore up the midfield for United with any combinations of Nani, Anderson and Shinji Kagawa to fill the rest of the midfield spots.

Manchester United has been struck by many injuries to start the season, especially in defense, but there is a possibility that a healthy Chris Smalling could start in the back four on Saturday. There is also hope that Ashley Young will rejoin the starting lineup as the winger has also been declared fit to play on Saturday. Having Smalling and Young return to the lineup is a step in the right direction for United but they still have Nemanja Vidic and Phil Jones out due to injury in defense.

Ferguson may rely on some of younger players for the Stoke match as even bigger foes are up ahead on the fixture list and will want his big name players ready for the big matches.

If there is one thing that Stoke need more than anything, it is goals.

The Potters currently sit in 16th place in goals scored in the EPL with just six.

The one man who can not be

blamed for the goal shortage is Peter Crouch, who has four of the six Stoke goals this season.

If Stoke want to avoid any mention of the relegation zone this season, they will have to find another person to find the back of the net besides the lanky Englishman. Arsenal return to Premier League action this weekend as they take a trip to Norfolk to take on Norwich City in the Saturday evening fixture. Arsene Wenger will be quickly confident that his side can really achieve something this year after a solid start which has only seen them lose once this season (Chelsea at home).

The highlight of Arsenal season so far have been the performances of their new star Santi Carzola the little Spaniard has been involved in everything good from the Gunners so far this season and his partnership with holding midfielder Mike Arteta looks as though it could prove very fruitful for the North London club.

Expect plenty of goals as two sides known for their entertaining style of play slug it out at Carrow Road.

London Eye



By Eddie Gray

England's first game since the opening of the new national football centre in Burton ended in a comfortable 5-0 win against minnows San Marino at Wembley.

The game was the inevitable procession that everyone expected, with Wayne Rooney and Danny Welbeck both bagging braces and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain netting his first goal for England.

The dominance on display was further highlighted at the end of the game with the home side having 86% of possession as well as 37 shots, with San Marino only managing one.

Individually, there were stand out performances that put the cherry on the cake of an all round solid team display.

Tom Cleverley, who was deployed in his favoured central midfield role, had more touches of the ball than any England player has ever done, beating the previous record held by David Beckham with an astonishing 165.

That sort of influence in a game against such weak opposition could easily be dismissed but to dominate the ball and demand it in any area is a hugely positive sign

for the three lions going forward. In order to challenge for major honours England will have to retain possession far better than they did during the summers European Championship and if Cleverley can replicate his display against San Marino when he comes across more talented opposition then the future should be bright for England.

There were more positives further up the field with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Danny Welbeck looking dangerous all night.

The pair's movement and pace caused the San Marino defence all sorts of problems with Chamberlain in particular running at his opposing full back every time he received the ball, something England fans haven't witnessed in a long time, especially in the infamously troubling left wing position.

But it wasn't all positives for the men in white.

Theo Walcott went off injured in the sixth minute after a heavy collision with goalkeeper Aldo Simoncini, which he described as feeling like 'being hit by a bus', resulting in a bruised lung for the Arsenal man and the display of Kyle Walker left many disappointed.

Walker, who was expected to be first choice at the Euros if he hadn't been injured, was given his chance due to the suspension of regular right back Glen Johnson but the Spurs fullback failed to seize his opportunity.

The former Sheffield United man was never going to be tested defensively so could concentrate fully on his attacking exploits but



Emphatic victory sign of things to come

his delivery, support runs and decision making was poor throughout.

Despite teaming up with his club team mate Aaron Lennon, Walker often founds himself too far forward crowding out Lennon instead of letting the ex Leeds man isolate his fullback, something the winger thrives on.

When Walker did manage to get into decent crossing positions the ball often hit the first man or didn't find the advancing Wayne Rooney or Welbeck, despite him having ample time to pick out his man.

You could see through the game that the Tottenham defender was growing frustrated but his performance should not see his England opportunity taken away from him, far from it.

Walker has plenty of 'big game'

and international experience already at 22 years old and despite the form of Arsenal full back Carl Jenkinson, Walker should still be ahead of him in the pecking order, regardless of his most recent outing.

Glen Johnson is clearly still first choice for the Poland match but by the next set of international fixtures England will have three right backs vying for the slot in what looks to be one of their strongest positions, both in depth and more importantly quality, an excellent selection headache for boss Roy Hodgson.

The San Marino result is a welcome start to life at St. Georges Park but having only had one training session at the new facility it is laugable to say that the £105 million venue contributed to that

result.

It is only in the future when we will see the impact of the state of the art training complex.

The move into St. Georges can only be good for the three lions as it provides them with a permanent home as well as benefiting all aspects of grass roots football in England, ultimately improving the first team senior side.

The centre intends to provide better quality coaching for the young pretenders which will hopefully help them realise their potential and reach the very top of the game.

The increased ability of those teaching the future generation will likely see more English prospects emerge at all levels of the game and more importantly, the amount

of home grown talent in the Premier League.

This experience at the top level of domestic football will vastly improve the pool of players as well as the quality available to the national team manager which only increases the chances of finally claiming that illusive international trophy.

But these changes and the emergence of next Wayne Rooney will take time.

Patrick Viera, who came through one of the toughest development systems in France, said recently it would take up to "10 years" for the effects of St.Georges to be seen and more evidence that the changes will not happen overnight is the Barcelona academy, La Masia.

La Masia was set up in the late 70's early 80's and only produced its first player to reach the Barcelona first team in 1988.

Of course now the academy is seen by all as the greatest in world football and has witnessed talents such as Xavi, Iniesta and Messi come through its ranks, but it still took nearly 20 years for these players to emerge, if not longer, and the Catalan club to regarded as the best on the planet.

With the influence of St.Georges the future should be bright for the national side. It will take many years for the benefits to be seen but when they are we could witness a real golden generation of English football.

Maybe one to rival the dominance of the current Spanish set up.

Only time will tell.



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By Luca Cetta

Two from two for Azzurri

As Serie A took a break Italy enjoyed back-to-back wins over Armenia and Denmark in World Cup qualifying to take control of Group B. The League resumes with a blockbuster match, as Massimiliano Allegri continues to feel the strain at Milan.

On the road last Friday Italy struggled in a disjointed performance against a spirited Armenia. Nonetheless, the Azzurri left Yerevan with a 3-1 win, which Coach Cesare Prandelli insisted was the result of “a great performance.” The visitors began brightly and took the lead on 12 minutes. Riccardo Montolivo’s shot was blocked by an arm, however the penalty award was harsh given it was hit from close distance and was ball to hand. Andrea Pirlo dispatched the spot-kick.

Armenia’s pace troubled central defenders Andrea Barzagli and Leonardo Bonucci. The hosts found a deserved equaliser, although it also arrived in controversial circumstances. Christian Maggio and Davit Manoyan clashed heads in front of the referee but play did not stop. Henrik Mkhitaryan glided past Barzagli and calmly convert-



Daniele De Rossi (R) of Italy scores his team’s second goal during the FIFA 2014 World Cup qualifier match between Italy and Denmark.

ed. Prandelli was furious play was not halted.

It took until past the hour mark and more nervous moments for Italy to retake the lead. Moments after Gianluigi Buffon pulled off a sensational save, Pirlo’s cross found Daniele De Rossi who powerfully nodded home. Substitute Pablo Osvaldo then flicked in a De Rossi free kick to make the points safe. Curiously, both De Rossi and Osvaldo had been dropped by Roma boss Zdenek Zeman last match but responded here with goals.

Montolivo felt Italy deserved their victory. “In the first half we played well. It was not an easy victory, but a deserved one, as in internationals the level is always going to be high. I must also admit Gigi Buffon did well to save us on a few occasions.”

Attention then turned to the meeting with Denmark in Milan on Tuesday. Buffon missed out due

to a thigh injury and Prandelli made a number of further changes, including the return of Mario Balotelli.

The visitors were on top in the early stages, however, they were stunned by a one-two punch just past the half-hour. Montolivo and De Rossi netted in quick succession. Denmark were then handed a lifeline either side of half time. Firstly, William Kvist struck a fine volley past Morgan De Sanctis, before Osvaldo was shown a straight red card – 16 seconds after the restart - for swinging his arm at Nicolai Stokholm.

Italy’s ten-men looked more composed than with 11. Pirlo’s sublime pass found the impressive Balotelli, who stuck out a leg to beat Stephen Andersen. Italy contained the Danes in the final stages to earn a 3-1 win and move four points clear after four matches. Prandelli believes his side played well after the opening exchanges.

ITALY Serie A											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games	Most recent first	
1 Juventus	7	6	1	0	17	4	+13	19	WWDWW		
2 Napoli	7	6	1	0	14	3	+11	19	WWWDW		
3 Lazio	7	5	0	2	12	6	+6	15	WWLLW		
4 Internazionale	7	5	0	2	11	6	+5	15	WWWLW		
5 Roma	7	3	2	2	14	11	+3	11	WL DWL		
6 Fiorentina	7	3	2	2	8	6	+2	11	WLDDW		
7 Catania	7	3	2	2	9	11	-2	11	WLWDL		
8 Sampdoria	7	3	2	2	9	8	+1	10	LLDDW		
9 Genoa	7	2	3	2	8	8	+0	9	DDDWL		
10 Torino	7	2	3	2	9	5	+4	8	LWDDL		
11 Milan	7	2	1	4	7	7	+0	7	LDWLL		
12 Bologna	7	2	1	4	9	10	-1	7	LWLDW		
13 Pescara	7	2	1	4	6	14	-8	7	LWWDL		
14 Udinese	7	1	3	3	7	11	-4	6	LDDWD		
15 Parma	7	1	3	3	6	10	-4	6	LDDDL		
16 Chievo	7	2	0	5	6	14	-8	6	WLLLL		
17 Palermo	7	1	2	4	6	11	-5	5	DWLLD		
18 Atalanta	7	2	1	4	5	11	-6	5	LLLWW		
19 Cagliari	7	1	2	4	4	11	-7	5	WLLLD		
20 Siena	7	2	2	3	8	8	+0	2	LLWWD		

“We found some initial difficulties...Then we played excellent football for 20 minutes. I saw the spirit of a great team, as with 10 we fought in an organised and determined manner. Once again these lads did brilliantly.”

Serie A Preview

Serie A is back with a bang this weekend. Juventus hosts Napoli on Saturday, both still unbeaten after seven matches and level at the top. Given the lull during international breaks, this game has been (over)hyped in the Italian media for more than a week.

Napoli have brought up perceived injustices stemming from the duo’s last meeting - August’s 4-2 defeat in the Italian SuperCup. Yet Coach Walter Mazzari wants to only focus on this fixture. “Is it decisive? Absolutely not. Anyone who loses will have time to make up for it. Would I be happy with a draw? Absolutely not. I want to

infuse the squad with a winning mentality.”

Angelo Alessio - Antonio Conte’s assistant – saw his touchline ban reduced last week, meaning he can sit on the bench this Saturday. Alessio was Conte’s No.2 at Siena and also banned for allegedly failing to report match fixing. It is unclear whether Alessio or current stand-in Massimo Carrera will take charge. Midfielder Emanuele Giaccherini believes Napoli will be Juve’s main opponent this term: “Napoli right now have more belief and strength, but the whole season will tell us if they are on our level or not. At the moment, Napoli are our main antagonists.”

Also on Saturday, Lazio hosts Milan. Brazilian striker Robinho – who declared he still believes in a Milan Scudetto – is injured as the pressure builds on Massimiliano Allegri. Milan – 12 points behind Juventus and Napoli – could sack the ex-Cagliari tactician should they leave Rome empty handed.

Alexandre Pato is expected to return from injury and Allegri believes Milan are on the right track to progress after their difficult start. Meanwhile, Lazio striker Miroslav Klose – fresh from a double for Germany on Tuesday - has warned the Rossoneri he “is in great shape” and eager to score. Elsewhere, Inter host Catania ready to take advantage of any slip-up by the leading duo, as enigmatic Roma travels to Genoa hoping to put together a run of victories after an inconsistent opening. Atalanta and Siena meet with both sides currently occupying a relegation place, as Cagliari aims to build on their maiden win at home versus Bologna.

Chievo host the dangerous Fiorentina, with Palermo hosting a miserly Torino outfit which holds the third-best defensive record thus far. Parma are at home against Sampdoria and finally, Udinese are aiming to climb above opponents Pescara with a victory.



By Pepe Lopez

On the 43rd minute of the match, Cesc Fabregas had the chance to put Spain 2-0 up against their European neighbours “Le Bleus” of France.

However, French and Tottenham Hotspurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris saved the spot kick and France’s hopes of going back home with a result.

With 46,000 watching at Atletico Madrid’s Vicente Calderon Stadium, Spain appeared to be cruising with the relative ease of a training run performance. However, injuries to key Spanish players David Silva and Alvaro Arbelao swung the momentum of the match, allowing France to enjoy some late enterprising possession play against the Spanish.

“The injuries were an immediate misfortune because it prevented us from managing the changes.” Spanish Coach Vicente Del Bosque said after the match. “In the first half we had control of the game and perhaps we lacked a bit of penetration with the missed penalty by Cesc



Andres Iniesta scores Spain’s opener against France in Madrid.

and the other chance that Pedro had. What will happen with the rest of the games I don’t know, it would appear March already will be important, but we can’t take anything for granted with the other teams in the group as they will all aspire to be first.”

Bayern Munich and French speedy play maker Franck Ribery began to cause the Spanish defense trouble in the closing stages of the match.

With the home team just a goal up, math, not reputation, nor match statistics, France just needed to score 1 goal, by any means to get a result. In retro-

spect what was the last passage of play in the match and after 94 minutes of play, Ribery setup compatriot and Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud with a short but precise cross, for Giroud to head past Spanish and Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

French Coach Didier Deschamps was philosophical about the result; “In the first half we suffered, we defended well, but they didn’t give us the ball and we weren’t able to attack practically at all. In the second half we had more presence, we were liberated and created more chances. We had to be magnifi-

SPAIN La Liga											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games	Most recent first	
1 Barcelona	7	6	1	0	19	7	+12	19	DWWWW		
2 Atlético Madrid	7	6	1	0	18	8	+10	19	WWWWW		
3 Málaga	7	4	2	1	11	4	+7	14	LWDWW		
4 Real Betis	7	4	0	3	12	13	-1	12	WLLWW		
5 Real Madrid	7	3	2	2	14	7	+7	11	DWWLW		
6 Mallorca	7	3	2	2	8	6	+2	11	LLWDW		
7 Sevilla	7	3	2	2	8	7	+1	11	LLWWD		
8 Real Valladolid	7	3	1	3	11	7	+4	10	DWLLL		
9 Getafe	7	3	1	3	8	10	-2	10	WWLLD		
10 Rayo Vallecano	7	3	1	3	9	14	-5	10	WLLLD		
11 Levante	7	3	1	3	8	13	-5	10	WLWLW		
12 Celta de Vigo	7	3	0	4	9	8	+1	9	WLWLW		
13 Real Sociedad	7	3	0	4	8	11	-3	9	LWLWL		
14 Valencia	7	2	2	3	8	9	-1	8	LWLWL		
15 Granada	7	2	2	3	6	10	-4	8	WWLDL		
16 Athletic Club	7	2	2	3	9	14	-5	8	WLDDW		
17 Real Zaragoza	7	2	0	5	5	9	-4	6	LLWLL		
18 Deportivo La C...	7	1	3	3	9	14	-5	6	LLDDL		
19 Osasuna	7	1	1	5	7	11	-4	4	LWLDL		
20 Espanyol	7	0	2	5	8	13	-5	2	DLLDL		

cent, we were playing the best team in Europe and the world. If this match brings more enthusiasm and confidence to the players then good, but we are not the best just because we have drawn with Spain. We are a young team, we haven’t done everything well but we have character and a lot of margin to improve.”

France were not expected to get anything from the match, in fact in a pre-match warm up, the French last at home in a friendly against Japan, whilst Spain defeated Belarus away by 4 goals to nil. However, this result, coupled with the fact that both France

and Spain lead their group, and the only two countries in the group who remain undefeated after 3 matches, will apply all pressure on a potential decider on the 26th of March, 2013 to determine the group winner and automatic qualifier to the 2014 World Cup Brazil, and who will have to roll the dice and qualify via a UEFA play-off, with another group’s runner up.

Whilst nothing has yet been decided in terms of who will finish where in UEFA World Cup Qualifying Group I, the result has given bookies something to decide, with Australia’s TAB

Sports Bet already pushing Brazil ahead of Spain in the betting for the 2014 World Cup in the space of 24 hours. With Brazil paying \$4.50, Spain \$5.50 and Argentina at \$6.00.

France’s next World Cup qualifier will be at home against Georgia on the 22nd of March 2013, whilst Spain will be playing Finland at home on the same day. Then just 4 days later, the two nations will do battle again to determine the all important first place position.

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CROATIA

EPL



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Dinamo Zagreb	11	8	2	1	27	11	+16	26	WWLDW
2 Slaven Koprivnica	11	6	1	4	20	19	+1	19	LDLLW
3 Hajduk Split	11	5	3	3	20	12	+8	18	WLWDL
4 Osijek	11	4	6	1	13	7	+6	18	DWWDL
5 Lokomotiva	11	5	3	3	16	13	+3	18	WDWLL
6 Rijeka	11	5	3	3	14	13	+1	18	WLWWW
7 Split	11	5	2	4	17	13	+4	17	DDLWW
8 Istra 1961	11	3	3	5	9	12	-3	12	LLDDD
9 Inter Zaprešić	11	2	5	4	14	15	-1	11	DDWDL
10 Cibalia	11	3	2	6	11	18	-7	11	LWLWW
11 Zadar	11	1	4	6	11	20	-9	7	LWLDD
12 Zagreb	11	1	2	8	5	24	-19	5	DLWDL


GERMANY Bundesliga



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Bayern München	7	7	0	0	21	2	+19	21	WWWWW
2 Eintracht Fran...	7	5	1	1	16	10	+6	16	LWDWW
3 Schalke 04	7	4	2	1	15	7	+8	14	WDWLW
4 Borussia Dortmund	7	3	3	1	17	9	+8	12	DWDLW
5 Hannover 96	7	3	2	2	15	10	+5	11	DLWLW
6 Bayer Leverkusen	7	3	2	2	11	9	+2	11	DWDDL
7 Fortuna Düsseldorf	7	2	4	1	6	3	+3	10	LDWDD
8 Hamburger SV	7	3	1	3	9	10	-1	10	WWDWL
9 Mainz 05	7	3	1	3	7	8	-1	10	WWLWL
10 Borussia M'glä...	7	2	3	2	9	12	-3	9	WLDDL
11 Freiburg	7	2	2	3	11	10	+1	8	WLDDW
12 Werder Bremen	7	2	1	4	10	13	-3	7	LLWDL
13 Hoffenheim	7	2	1	4	10	14	-4	7	LDWWL
14 Nürnberg	7	2	1	4	7	14	-7	7	LLLLW
15 Stuttgart	7	1	3	3	7	14	-7	6	DWLDD
16 Augsburg	7	1	2	4	5	11	-6	5	WDLLD
17 Wolfsburg	7	1	2	4	2	13	-11	5	LLDDD
18 Greuther Fürth	7	1	1	5	2	11	-9	4	LLLLDL

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



Last5games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Cardiff City	10	7	1	2	19	11	+8	22	WWWLW
2 Leicester City	10	7	0	3	17	9	+8	21	WWWWW
3 Wolverhampton ...	10	6	1	3	14	9	+5	19	WLWWW
4 Crystal Palace	10	6	1	3	18	17	+1	19	WWWWDD
5 Brighton & Hov...	10	5	3	2	15	6	+9	18	DDLWW
6 Huddersfield Town	10	5	2	3	15	11	+4	17	WLWWL
7 Leeds United	10	5	2	3	18	16	+2	17	WDWWL
8 Blackpool	10	5	1	4	19	14	+5	16	LWLWL
9 Blackburn Rovers	10	4	4	2	16	13	+3	16	LDDLW
10 Hull City	10	5	1	4	16	14	+2	16	WLWLW
11 Middlesbrough	10	5	1	4	16	17	-1	16	WDLWL
12 Nottingham Forest	10	3	5	2	11	10	+1	14	WDLDD
13 Derby County	10	3	4	3	15	13	+2	13	DDWLW
14 Watford	10	4	1	5	15	18	-3	13	LWWDW
15 Charlton Athletic	10	3	3	4	12	12	+0	12	WLDDL
16 Burnley	10	3	2	5	21	22	-1	11	LDDLW
17 Bristol City	10	3	2	5	18	19	-1	11	LDLDW
18 Bolton Wanderers	10	3	2	5	13	16	-3	11	LDLWL
19 Barnsley	10	3	2	5	12	15	-3	11	LDLWL
20 Millwall	10	3	2	5	14	19	-5	11	WDDLDD
21 Birmingham City	10	3	2	5	10	17	-7	11	LLWLW
22 Sheffield Wedn...	10	2	2	6	14	21	-7	8	LDLLL
23 Ipswich Town	10	1	4	5	8	19	-11	7	LDDLDD
24 Peterborough U...	10	2	0	8	10	18	-8	6	LWLLL

Greece

Super League



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	6	6	0	0	14	3	+11	18	WWWWW
2 Panionios	6	5	0	1	7	5	+2	15	WWLWW
3 PAOK	6	4	1	1	11	4	+7	13	DWWWL
4 Platania	6	3	2	1	8	4	+4	11	WWLDW
5 Asteras Tripolis	6	3	1	2	7	4	+3	10	LDWLW
6 Atromitos	6	2	3	1	6	4	+2	9	DLDDW
7 Veria	6	2	2	2	5	5	+0	8	DWDDL
8 Panathinaikos	6	2	3	1	5	4	+1	7	WDDLDD
9 OFI	6	1	3	2	5	6	-1	6	DLWLD
10 Panthrakikos	6	2	0	4	5	8	-3	6	WLWLW
11 Aris	6	1	2	3	3	8	-5	5	LLWDD
12 Xanthi	6	1	2	3	5	9	-4	5	LLLDW
13 Kerkyra	6	1	2	3	4	9	-5	5	DWLDD
14 PAS Giannina	6	1	2	3	4	6	-2	5	LWLDD
15 Levadiakos	6	1	1	4	3	9	-6	4	LLWDL
16 AEK Athens	6	0	2	4	3	7	-4	2	DLDDL

...Results...Results....Results....Results....Results....Results....Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...

LEAGUE ONE												
Tranmere Rovers 3 - 2 Yeovil Town												
Colchester United 1 - 0 Stevenage												
Swindon Town 2 - 2 Coventry City												
Portsmouth 2 - 0 Crewe Alexandra												
Hartlepool United 1 - 1 Doncaster Rovers												
Sheffield United 1 - 1 Oldham Athletic												
Scunthorpe United 1 - 1 Brentford												
Crawley Town 3 - 2 Bury												
Carlisle United 0 - 4 Notts County												
AFC Bournemouth 2 - 0 Leyton Orient												
Preston NE 0 - 0 Milton Keynes Dons												
Shrewsbury Town 1 - 0 Walsall												
Leyton Orient 1 - 0 Hartlepool United												
Bury 1 - 1 Carlisle United												
LEAGUE TWO												
Torquay United 3 - 1 Accrington Stanley												
Rochdale 1 - 2 Morecambe												
Gillingham 4 - 0 Aldershot Town												
Chesterfield 1 - 2 Dagenham & Red...												
Rotherham United 0 - 3 Southend United												
Northampton Town 3 - 0 Exeter City												
AFC Wimbledon 1 - 2 Cheltenham Town												
Fleetwood Town 0 - 1 Wycombe Wanderers												
Barnet 1 - 4 Plymouth Argyle												
Bradford City 1 - 1 York City												
Burton Albion 1 - 1 Bristol Rovers												
Port Vale 3 - 0 Oxford United												

WORLD CUP Qualification Europe

Russia	1 - 0	Azerbaijan
Belarus	2 - 0	Georgia
Israel	3 - 0	Luxembourg
Latvia	2 - 0	Liechtenstein
Andorra	0 - 1	Estonia
Faroe Islands	1 - 4	Ireland Republic
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3 - 0	Lithuania
Cyprus	1 - 3	Norway
Ukraine	0 - 1	Montenegro
Croatia	2 - 0	Wales
Czech Republic	0 - 0	Bulgaria
Romania	1 - 4	Netherlands
Austria	4 - 0	Kazakhstan
Slovakia	0 - 1	Greece
Iceland	0 - 2	Switzerland
San Marino	0 - 2	Moldova
Macedonia	FYR 1 - 0	Serbia
Hungary	3 - 1	Turkey
Germany	4 - 4	Sweden
Albania	1 - 0	Slovenia
Belgium	2 - 0	Scotland
Italy	3 - 1	Denmark
Spain	1 - 1	France
Portugal	1 - 1	Northern Ireland
Poland	1 - 1	England



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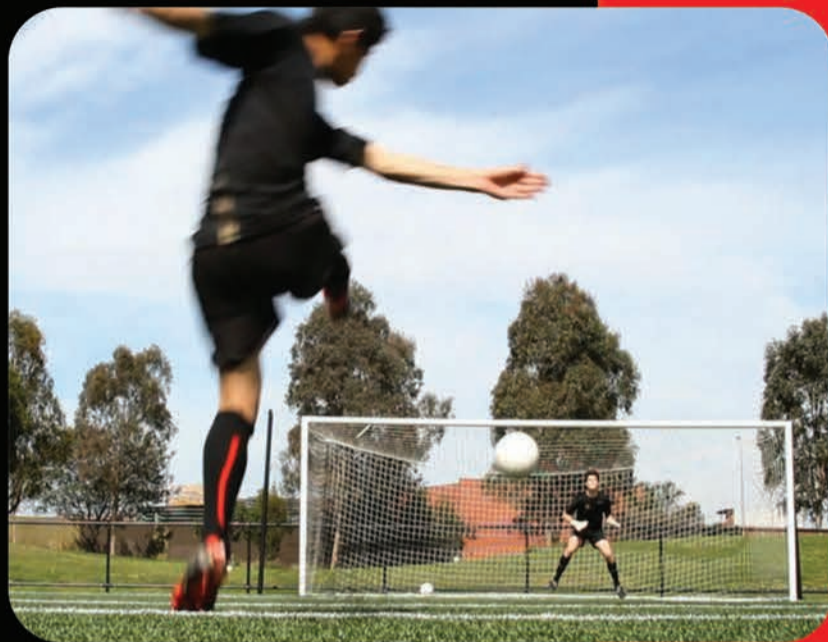
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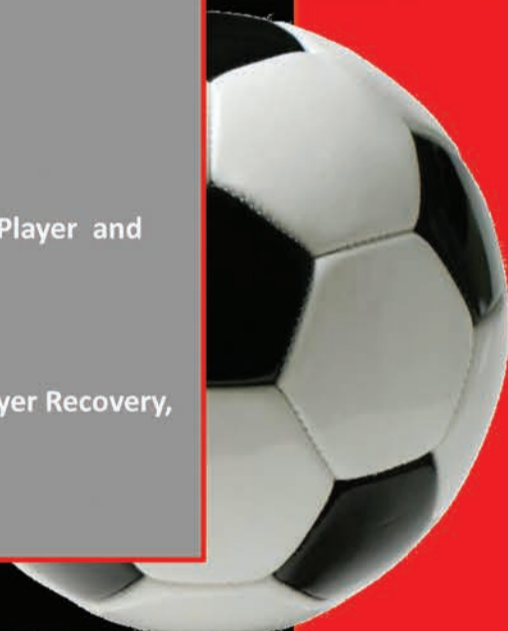
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